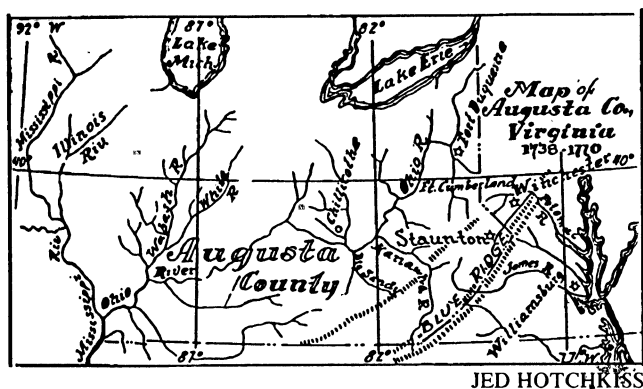


# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 26

FALL 1990

NUMBER 2

# AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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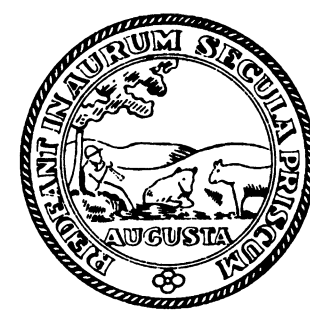
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Published by the  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Founded 1964  
 Post Office Box 686  
 Staunton, Virginia 24401



VOLUME 26                      FALL 1990                      NUMBER 2

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600 Copies printed by  
Mid Valley Press, Inc.  
Verona, Virginia

### NOTICE

Dues are assessed for each calendar year. Notices of dues are sent in November prior to the year in which due. This is done to allow you to pay and take the income tax deduction in the year you prefer. Members who have not paid by February first are re-billed. Members who have not paid by May first are dropped from membership.

It is urgent that the society be promptly notified of changes of address. Bulletins which cannot be delivered by the postal service will not be forwarded due to high postage rates.

*Augusta County History, 1865-1950*, by Richard K. MacMaster, \$33.85 postpaid

*Augusta County Historical Atlas* is being reprinted in 1990. Contact society for further information.

*Shirey's Guide Book to Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro, Virginia* by Paul C. Shirey, \$1.75

Howard M. Wilson, *Great Valley Patriots*, \$15 plus \$1.50 postage and handling, plus sales tax where applicable

Copies of the Augusta Declaration of 1775 are available @ \$3.00 plus \$1.00 postage.

Copies of this issue to all members

## CONTENTS

What's New at Old Stone? .....	Andy McCaskey
History of Woodrow Wilson General Hospital .....	Nicole A. Riley
Who Was Thomas Garber That We Should Weep for Him? Part II .....	J. Suzanne Simmons
Augusta County Obituaries 1870 .....	Anne Covington Kidd
Local Telephone History .....	Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.
Old Homes of Augusta County: The Plecker-Wise House .....	Ann McCleary
Five Year Index .....	compiled by Edward C. Echols
In Memoriam	
New Members	

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$4.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues beginning January 1991:

Annual (individual) .....	\$10.00
Annual (family) .....	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$30.00
Life Membership .....	\$150.00
Annual (Institutional) .....	\$10.00
Contributing — Any amount	



Augusta Stone Church.  
Courtesy, Augusta Stone Church

## WHAT'S NEW AT OLD STONE?\*

By

Andy McCaskey

We learn valuable lessons from the study of history and among them is an awareness that there is "always a better way" in which to do almost anything Man undertakes. That includes the re-telling of our history.

There is a very real danger that a new generation may be alienated from listening to the stories of the heritage which is theirs, largely because events of the past are set before them in staid, lecture-oriented style not at all compatible with present day learning conditions.

As a direct outgrowth of a decade of writing annual church history dramatic sketches, plays, audio scripts, talks and music re-telling segments of the 250 year history of Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, at Ft. Defiance, Va., I have evolved a modern package for telling church history in new and provocative ways. It has been tested on tour groups visiting the church during the past two years and found to be one means of increasing interest in the historical heritage of both church and community. The method has a special appeal for young people who are living in a world of computers and TV treatments.

I have collected stories concerning Augusta Stone Church, its people and the world in which they lived, under fifty-five different headings or categories. A system has evolved whereby the audience is provided with a computer list - a "menu" - of subjects. They are both cryptic and mystifying at first glance, and the recipient is asked to call out a category number or name from the list. As Facilitator of Information, I take that subject and deal with it from various angles in an informal, conversational manner. The list of categories itself changes from time to time, so that the "talk" never comes out the same way twice. I never know what is going to be talked about and make no real plans for a sequence of subjects other than the one I started with - usually a background piece.

Because of the sheer bulk of material available from the 250 years of the church at Fort Defiance, and of its sister church at the Tinkling Spring; of its daughter churches throughout the area, I have been forced to construct a single loose-leaf binder in which basic information is before me and available on the lectern for consultation as to specific dates or circumstances. As much as possible, I try to avoid using it and work always with the stated theory that I, as an individual have always been, and will remain "a student of, rather than an authority on..history."

One finds that so many stories appear in two or three versions. I try to present all of them and let the hearer choose which he wants to accept.

\*Presented to the Spring Meeting, May 1990, of the Society, at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church



Every effort is made to try to present the seventeen ministers of Augusta Stone as genuine people rather than cardboard cutout types, and same intent is stressed in dealing with historical events of the various decades, with social life, politics, with ethics and morals - any aspect of a vital society with living people verbally "on-stage" to bring the past into focus for us with human interest aspects and humor intact.

Those who attended the May meeting of the Augusta County Historical Society received copies of the "menu" as it existed at that time, but even the titles change with Time, and a varied list can be used at any level. Typical titles were: "Who's On First?" - obviously a play on the old Abbott and Costello baseball sketch. In it, I deal with aspects of the claim that John Craig was "The first duly authorized Presbyterian minister to serve west of the Blue Ridge"; the controversial topic of which church is the "oldest" in what sense of the word; and who has led the way in membership, attainments or whatever over the years. The title "You Call That a Fort?" deals with various fortifications against Indian dangers of the 1750's and the specific effort of this congregation. "Proof" is presented that such a fort did exist and good authority is also quoted for the off-stated premise that it did not. The topic "Bells, Bells, Bells." brings out the need for more information about the bell which currently swings in the spire of the 1923-24 addition; the bell in the old Session House tower; the hand bells used to signify the end of Sunday School and worship service hours; and the part played by the "Bells of Old Stone" the story of the murder of Joseph Bell and his wife and comments on the Bell Cemetery at Mount Sidney.

Several stories are far too long and complicated to telling at any such meeting, such as the story of "Selim, the Algerine". When someone requests that tale from the list they get a brief outline of the dramatic tale and recommendations on sources so details can be studied.

Or, elements of the long Selim story turn up in various other categories. Ask for #26 listed as P.O.W. brings you the story of Rev. I.W.K. Handy, our 6th pastor, who spent seventeen months in Federal Prison as an inmate and wrote a thick book about his stay there. That, in turn, can lead to other Ministers of this area who were imprisoned in times of war. I fragment the long story of John Craig's tenure from 1740 to 1774 as well, recounting stories dealing with his being charged with witchcraft; of his baptisms, of the geographical area of his ministry, of the charismatic nature of the ministry of his time, of his friends, associates and family and his "Old Side" views.

Approximately four hours of these "tellings and talkings" are available on videotape as told for our Sunday school last year and may be borrowed from the Church Library. There have been spin-offs, as well. A "Do-It-Yourself Walking Tour of Augusta Stone Church" is to be available shortly for individual visitors to the church, a videotaped tour of the facility will also be available. The Museum, located in the old Session House, is open most Sundays following worship service or by appointment and groups are welcomed.

## HISTORY OF THE WOODROW WILSON GENERAL HOSPITAL\*

By

Nicole A. Riley

The United States became involved in World War II when on December 8th, 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan, Germany, and Italy. As war bonds were being sold and ration points handed out to civilians, young men from across the country were lining up to be sent overseas. While the men left for war, the women left behind kept the home fires throughout the country burning. More than four million women worked in war plants, while others were enlisted in the WAACS, the Women Marines, the WAVES, and the SPARS. Almost every city, town, or county had a direct involvement in the war besides sending their men to fight and Augusta County was not excluded.

On May the 22nd, 1942, the United States government gave their official announcement that an Army hospital was to be built in Fishersville, Virginia. The United States government saw Augusta County as the ideal site for a military hospital over a hundred possible sites in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The War Department, under the control of Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, narrowed their choices to farm land four and a half miles east of Staunton on US Route 250 owned by E. L. Hamilton, H. H. Harmon, and J. C. Harmon and the orchard of Mary Baldwin College on US Route 11.

According to Mrs. Metro Oleska, of Staunton who lived across from the entrance to the hospital, the announcement placed the community of Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro in a state of panic. "For some it was the fear of bringing all those strange people from all over the United States into our quiet little community, and what if it brought the war right to our doorsteps?"

All sites considered were inspected by Army engineers and representatives of the Surgeon General's office and had to meet these requirements: the terrain could not be too hilly and there had to be at least one-third of a mile in width and one-half a mile in depth of reasonably level, gradeable land. The site had to be near all public utilities such as gas, water, power, and light with a stream for sewage disposal near a city with educational, religious, housing, recreational, and other considerations, but the site could not be located in a predominantly industrial area. Also, there had to be a main-line railroad near the site with an elevation of one thousand feet, perfect air, and land drainage. The six hundred and fifty acres of farmland in

\*Winning essay of Augusta County Historical Essay Contest. Nicole A. Riley is a student at Fort Defiance High School.

Fishersville and the Mary Baldwin College orchard were the two choices left. The War Department chose the land in Fishersville over Mary Baldwin because they required additional acreage which Mary Baldwin could not provide with their two hundred and forty acres.

The government bought the acreage in Fishersville for a total of \$24,500. The estimated cost of construction was three million dollars. The bed capacity was one thousand beds which later increased to two thousand and five hundred, and housing was needed for one thousand doctors, nurses, and other enlisted personnel. The size of the hospital was reflected by the fact that the University of Virginia hospital, the largest in the state, had three hundred and fifty beds, whereas the Army hospital had one thousand at the beginning of construction and later increased to two thousand and five hundred beds.

The hospital was of the cantonment type, where the one hundred buildings were made of siding covered with asbestos shingles and were all one-level buildings for quick evacuation.

The Federal government on June 3, 1942 asked Staunton to lay ten-inch, instead of the usual three-inch, water pipes for the hospital. The larger pipes were used to increase fire protection. The estimated cost was \$3,200 for twelve hundred feet of pipe that went from Augusta Street to B&O Railway Arch Bridge where the connection was made. The government received immediate action, and paid the same water rates as the people of Staunton.

The ground breaking was performed at 7:30 am on June 26, 1942. The road that lead to the site off Rt. 250 was narrow and workers started work on widening the road to allow large construction trucks onto the hospital site. Plans were drawn up by Perring and Remington, architects and engineers of Baltimore, Maryland with the help of S. J. Collins of Staunton and Fleming R. Hurt, of Waynesboro along with Richard B. Lloyd as the area engineer. The Jeffress Dryer Company of Washington, D.C. was hired to complete the construction. The plans up to that date covered 364.75 acres to build a 1,003-bed unit. The road was not of asphalt, but of concrete or a specially treated crushed stone. The land caused little problem and the grading was kept to a minimum.

The hospital was built as a small city in itself, almost independent of the surrounding cities. The hundred buildings were used for: administration, nurses and officers' quarters, recreation, and mess, medical detachment barracks, standard combination detention wards, patients' mess and recreation, post exchange, physiotherapy, clinic, infirmary, x-ray, medical library, morgue, storehouse, supply, mess office, Quarter Master warehouse, hospital, utility, paint shop, bakery, cold storage, laundry, post office, telephone building, garage, gas station, fuel tanks, nozzles, boiler house, chapel, open covered and enclosed fireproof walks, draft stops, fences for detention ward, disposal plant, and theater for military personnel and family members. The theater showed newly released Hollywood movies

and could be used to stage shows. U.S.O. clubs were opened to provide activities for the hospital patients.

Mrs. Oleska remarked that the wards were long, one-level buildings with beds lined on both sides. Small nurses' stations were in all the wards. Big sun porches were on each end of the wards.

The site was in a bluff that cut off much of the noise and traffic on the highway. The housing for one thousand doctors, nurses, enlisted men, and patients rose to twenty-five hundred in a little over a month. In June 1943 Staunton looked for possible housing for visitors of the wounded and tourists.

On June 8, 1943 the first telephone system located in a permanent building was installed. Over 1,854 calls were made the first week, an average of 265 calls per day. There were twenty-three stations on the switchboard by February 15, 1943, but increased to one hundred and sixty-three by June 1, 1943. 1,363 inter-post calls were made daily with an average of 1,600 going out per week and 1,300 incoming calls. Once the telephone system was in full operation it was estimated that 7,000 to 10,000 calls were placed daily.

The first patients to the hospital were admitted on June 6, 1943. Three hundred wounded soldiers from the North African Campaign were treated.

June 12, 1943, saw the arrival of the military police outside the entrance gates off Route 250. The military police were on duty twenty-four hours a day with guns rested on their shoulders, checking cars as they entered and left the grounds to look for any patients that might try to escape. Anyone who wanted to enter had to show their credentials. The hospital was operated in a very military manner.

All wounded soldiers who saw overseas action received a Purple Heart in ceremonies held at the hospital. One of these ceremonies was performed on June 23, 1943. Colonel Sidney L. Chappell, Commanding Officer at the hospital, pinned twenty-three of the prized Purple Hearts on the maroon hospital robes worn by the wounded heroes from the North African campaign in a simple but impressive ceremony.

Fourteen of the twenty-three wounded soldiers were present at the outdoor ceremony while the other nine were unable to leave their beds. The United States flag along with Red Cross flag flew under a cloudless sky with a large crowd in attendance. The soldiers, who fought on the sands of Tunisia, sat calm and serious with only their faces reflecting the horrors of their past experiences. Although they looked quite young, their quiet composure revealed the difficulties they encountered on the shores of Tripoli and Tunisia.

The ceremony was open to the public and was broadcasted on a radio program. The lowering of the Colors ended the program.

The hospital was named on June 30, 1943, after some difficulty. The hospital was named the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital, after Woodrow Wilson, Staunton's native son and World War I president. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, and Surgeon General James A. Magee disagreed with the hospital being named after Woodrow Wilson since Federal hospitals were

named after past Surgeon Generals. When the citizens of Augusta County and Staunton learned this, one hundred and fifty telephone calls were placed to Washington.

On August 26, 1943, the Virginia Stage Lines, Inc. announced that the bus service between Staunton and Waynesboro to the Woodrow Wilson Hospital was to be improved. Fifty-two round trips instead of twelve was on the new schedule. Major A. Martin made it possible by obtaining five more buses. Bus fares were fifteen cents for one-way and twenty-five cents for a round trip. The schedule provided twenty minute service from 5:05 am to 12:05 am from Staunton. The buses left the hospital between 5:25 am and 12:25 am.

Two hundred United States soldiers from English and North African war zones arrived at the hospital on the evening of August 31, 1943. Many of the men were still in their woolens, not having time to change into their summer uniforms. Thirty-five of the men were "litter cases" with wounds in the foot and leg and thirty others were mild mental cases. Fifteen officers were on the train with the highest being a major. Taking the litter cases to the hospital consumed much time as ambulances shuttled between Staunton and the hospital with only four patients carried per trip. As the patients were placed inside the ambulance, a checker checked victims' identifications tags and made a record. Many of the soldiers wore the insignia showing they were in the Air Force.

Fifteen hundred men, women, and children were present at the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital dedication on September 1, 1943, at 2:00 pm. Major A. Martin, Executive Officer, was Master of Ceremonies. Special guests included Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Cordell Hull, Governor Darden, and Representative A. Willis Robertson, who gave an address during the ceremony. Major General Norman T. Kirk, M.D., Surgeon General of the United States, presented the Hospital to Commanding Officer, Colonel Sidney L. Chappell. The ceremony ended with the impressive "Retreat" and the sound of a lone bugle.

Although there was ideal weather and much excitement, the presence of patients in their maroon bathrobes brought a touch a reality and sadness to the festivities. After the ceremony a reception was held in the Officers' Club. Following the reception many of the guests remained for dinner in the patients' dining room and dancing at the Officers' Club.

People from the Staunton-Augusta County area were not the only ones who worked at the hospitals. The doctors and nurses were the best from all over the United States. Captain Joseph Medoff was the doctor in charge of the chest section and hailed from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began work at the hospital on July 29, 1945. Captain Irving Kossack, a member of the Surgical Staff from New York, arrived on August 24, 1945. Captain Stephan M. McCoy from New York was the Assistant Chief of the Surgical Service. Sergeant Henry C. Gagon, Chief Clerk in the Registrar's Office, first came to the hospital as a patient on May 2, 1944. Metro Oleska, native

from Allentown, Pennsylvania, was in the Quartermaster Division. His duties including giving patients shots and guarding those in the "Brig" or jail. He once played a joke on one of his wife's friends by throwing her into the brig. He was one of the last seven to leave the hospital in October 1946 as a Staff Sergeant.

Mrs. Metro Oleska, whose mother ran a store, restaurant, and gas station across from the entrance of the hospital, was a Civil Service employee beginning in late 1944. Her duties included checking and typing medical charts, checking information of the field medical charts and admitting patients. She worked six days a week from 8:00 am to midnight, catching the last bus out of the hospital. She would eat in the mess hall or the post exchange. Mrs. Oleska stated, "To do our part during the war by working for the government at the hospital, was a part of our patriotic duty." She even said that when they became exhausted and started to slack off, Captain White would remind them of their "patriotic duty".

Mrs. Oleska stated that when the ambulances rolled in, the military personnel, Civil Service employees, and herself took care of the admittance papers and saw the wounded to their wards. The "litter" cases were taken straight to the wards and Mrs. Oleska and the others would follow to get information from the patients. Nurses and surgical doctors were on duty twenty-four hours a day with a well equipped operating room.

Once Mrs. Oleska admitted a soldier who had had his tongue cut out by the Japanese, and another who by lying beneath one of his dead comrades and playing dead, was the one survivor from his thirty-man platoon.

Mrs. Oleska was later put in charge of the "Certificate of Disability Discharge Board." Patients were brought before the board to decide what type of Army discharge and if they were eligible for a compensatory pension. She had to have the patient's medical chart totally completed upon discharge.

Two thousand four hundred and seventy-three patients were treated at the hospital from the first patients to December 31, 1945. Two thousand and twenty-four soldiers had gone through tests at the hospital needed to acquire furlough and sick leave.

As in most wars, there were bad times and good times. The Woodrow Wilson General Hospital had their share of the bad as well as the good. One good time was when seventy-one soldiers arrived at the hospital on Christmas Eve to take their required tests for a fourteen day Christmas furlough. They received twenty-five dollars and new uniforms. The Red Cross gave out sandwiches, peanuts, candy, and Christmas gifts. Another wonderful time was on July 11, 1943 when a wedding between Private Clarke W. Tebbets and WAC Corporal Pearl Rothman was performed in the hospital's chapel.

Mrs. Oleska expressed the general feelings of the soldiers who were patients at the hospital. "Believe me, those boys were still young enough to play games with or on each other. They would race down the ramps in

wheelchairs, whistle at all the girls, throw their addresses to the girls from their departing trucks, and get into mischief like any other young man.

"As soldiers they had all been men—caring about their country, family, fellow comrades, and acquiring peace even at the cost of their lives. They might have been crippled physically but in their hearts and minds they still believed in peace and unity. The boys were all from different backgrounds, but they had a common love of their country and pursuit of freedom and peace.

"I don't think our boys were always recognized for the heroes they were, though there were many awards. Most of them really weren't interested in being recognized as such. They always seemed to feel badly about their comrades who didn't make it. To them, losing an arm or leg seemed a small sacrifice in comparison to what some of their buddies lost.

"Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County had a big part in the war effort. We were the victors! Those who worked at the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital learned a lesson of allegiance and love that could not have been learned in any other way. I feel that every citizen of this community felt something they will probably never experience again."

In October 1946, operations at the hospital began to slow down. Once the hospital was closed and declared surplus by the War Assets Administration negotiations began with the State of Virginia. After a year the War Assets Administration transferred to the State a quit claim deed covering a portion of the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital. All of the property was divided among Augusta County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Federal government. The establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Wilson Memorial High School, the Woodrow Wilson Technical Center (otherwise known as the Valley Vo-technical Center), the Naval Reserve, and the U.S. Branch Agricultural Test Station was the result of the division.

Not only did we win the war, but because of Woodrow Wilson General Hospital we now have the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center which provides counseling, therapy, vocational training, and work opportunities for the severely handicapped, Wilson Memorial High School which educates our children, and Valley Vo-technical Center which provides students and adults the opportunity to learn skills for a possible career. Through the efforts of our government, and the work of Mr. and Mrs. Metro Oleska and others like them, those that fought did not fight in vain, for their memory still lives with us in our hearts and minds and in the institutions which once helped them and still today provide people with opportunities for a better life.

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# WHO WAS THOMAS GARBER THAT WE SHOULD WEEP FOR HIM

By

J. Suzanne Simmons

## Part II

Between December and April, the army settled into winter camp. At the outset soldiers gladly anticipated protection against winter's harsh conditions in semi-permanent shelters. The inactivity of winter camp, however inviting in December, became unwelcome by winter's end.

Winter camp afforded the opportunity for furloughs, especially to men camped close to home. Homesickness among demoralized troops and the difficulty in getting a previously guaranteed furlough often resulted in unauthorized extended furloughs. The failure to return promptly from a furlough bordered on desertion, but remained a commonplace problem.

Sometime in December the Laurel Brigade settled into winter quarters, perhaps near New Market. General William E. Jones did not let his men rest, however. Lending meaning to his nickname "Grumble" Jones, the general sent his men out on small campaigns in an effort to trap the Union General Robert Milroy who was at Winchester. In April, at the termination of winter camp, Tom's letter revealed a glimpse of life in winter camp along with his subtle yet proud announcement of a promotion.

Headquarters 12th Va Cav  
Camp near New Market April 15th/63

Dear Sister Addie

I received your letter last night by Sours and set you an example by answering it this soon I wish you would tell Sam Thomas if he does not hurry down here that he will be published as a deserter tell him he has been absent long enough, tell him when we were down at Front Royal I saw his friend Miss Betsy White who send her love to him. You asked me if his wife was dead, she is not but is living and likely to live for some time so there is no chance for any one who had designs up for him. I am mighty glad to get in the Valley again; we are at New Market now but I don't know how long we will stay here nor do I know where we will go when we leave here. You said I made a curious request about the flag why can't you get the stuff to make it, if you can I wish you would get it and make it for the one I have got now is all torn up you said Ferd had gone home the Col is going to give him the mischeif when he get here but

you nead not say anything about it to him or anyone else. I have not sent that letter yet but will send it in a day or Two, you asked me for my confidence dear sister you have it all ready there is nothing I keep from you, you said you would give any thing in the world to know that you Brother loved you Addie I do and beleive all you Brothers do, give my love to Pa, Ma, Kate & Nelly and to Sister Seal tell she must keep you strait give my to Capt & Leiut Garber when you write to them write soon to you Bro

Thos M Garber  
Color Sergt 12th Va Cav

In addition to ordering his men to participate in rigorous drills General Jones spent the winter studying methods of destroying railroad bridges, tunnels and trestling.<sup>19</sup> With Lee's approval, Jones planned that his Western Virginia Expedition would render the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad incapable of transporting men and supplies for at least six months.

While the Army of Northern Virginia prepared to engage General Hooker at Chancellorsville, the Laurel Brigade led by Jones and troops commanded by General John D. Imboden left the quartermaster at Lacy Springs, north of Harrisonburg on April 21, and marched west toward Cootes Store, near present day Broadway, Virginia. Jones withheld his objectives for a raid into Western Virginia: to capture Federal troops at Philippi, Beverley, and Buckhannon, to overthrow the loyalist government at Wheeling, to recruit men, collect supplies, and to destroy all the bridges and trestles on the B&O Railroad from Grafton, Virginia to Oakland, Maryland in order to disrupt Union supply lines to the west.<sup>20</sup>

From Cootes Store, the brigade travelled to Lost River on the 22nd and they reached Moorefield on the 23rd. Flood waters of the South Branch of the Potomac River forced Jones to send the artillery and baggage wagons back to the Valley. The cavalry travelled to Petersburg before attempting a river crossing. Despite this caution, two men of the 6th Cavalry drowned in the rain swollen river. Undaunted Jones forged ahead to Greenland Gap where he met 150 Federal troops holding the gap from a church and a school at the base of the mountain. Without their artillery and on the offensive, the Confederates were at a disadvantage. The Federal troops held them off until dark, at which time the Confederates torched the building and forced their surrender.

At this juncture, the Laurel Brigade and Imboden's company split. John Imboden headed for Cheat River, General Jones moved toward Altamont, and Colonel Asher Harman led the Twelfth, Brown's Battalion, and McNeil's Company of Partisan Rangers to burn bridges in Oakland, Maryland. This accomplished, the Twelfth turned its attention to destroying the turnpike and railroad bridges over the Youghiogheny River.

At Cranberry Summit the regiment encountered bushwackers. Bushwackers, or swamp dragons, were men who operated either individually or in bands and who murdered men in the community who entertained Rebel sentiments or shot at Rebel soldiers from behind bushes.<sup>21</sup> In reprisal Harman ordered their stores and the depot at Cranberry Summit burned. Harman pressed on to Morgantown, arriving on the afternoon of April 27. At Morgantown the Stars and Stripes fell and Governor Pierpont's private library was put to the torch.

After leaving Morgantown, Harman accidentally met up with the rest of the Brigade. Re-combining their forces, the brigade set off for the Southwest in search of General Imboden. The search took them around Clarksburg to Oil Town. Federal troops had appropriated the entire oil operation. Jones ordered oil tanks, barrels, engines for pumping, engine houses, wagons burned. Boats filled with oil were put to the torch. The inevitable explosion caused the fire to spread over the river, where the current carried the flames downstream. As far as the eye could see, the river appeared to burn.

Jones joined Imboden at Summerville and together they turned their troops homeward. In thirty days the Laurel Brigade had marched 700 miles, taken 700 prisoners, captured 1200 horses and 1000 head of cattle, destroyed 150,000 barrels of oil, and laid waste to a half-million dollars worth of property belonging to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In their wake lay sixteen burned railroad bridges, a destroyed tunnel, and thirty-five of enemy dead. Jones, however, failed in his goal to disrupt the railroad. Transportation along the Baltimore and Ohio resumed in a short two weeks.<sup>22</sup>

Upon their return to the Valley, the last week of May, the brigade rested at Mt. Crawford. Their rest would be brief, for Lee was moving his army northward for yet another invasion of the North. He called the cavalry to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains and hold the fords on the Rappahannock River. While in camp an unusually reticent Tom Garber wrote home.

Camp near Harrisonburg  
May 29th 1863

Dear Sister Addie

We start tomorrow for the Rappahanock & as I dont when I shall have a chance to write to you again I thought I would write you a few lines this evening. Mr. Maury had church this morning in camp. he had a very slim congregation but he gave us a very nice sermon. Give my love to Ash & mike when you write to them tell them I hope to see them before long. tell Pa that Cousin Ash said he would speak to him about my going to Lexington to school. Give my love to Sister Seal & tell her I was sorry I did not get to see here when

I was in town the other day excuse this short note as I have nothing else to say enclosed you will find a note for Cousin Will You Bro

Thomas M Garber

Newly outfitted and astride fresh horses, the cavalry staged a grand review on June 5 between Culpeper Court House and Brandy Station. When General Lee arrived three days later to join Jeb Stuart the performance was repeated. The morning after the second review enemy fire awakened the Twelfth, bivouacked near Beverley's Ford. John Buford's Federal Cavalry had attacked.

Marshalling his forces, Harman and the Twelfth rode toward the ford. In as much as they saw no sign of Yankees, they proceeded across an open field toward a woods. As they drew closer to the still woods, Federal troops opened fire, forcing the Twelfth to retreat. A fierce fight ensued; the Federals and Confederates charged and retreated across the open field five times before the Yankees gave up the fight.

While Colonel Harman and the Twelfth haggled over the field at Beverley's Ford, Union troops attacked Stuart's rear guard at Brandy Station. Harman ordered his men in the direction of the battle. Starting at a trot, Harman subsequently ordered his men to a gallop. Spreading the line and giving the men no time to organize before reaching Fleetwood Hill, the Yankees were able to repulse the Twelfth's charge. Once again the fighting seasawed across the field of battle.

The Confederates held Fleetwood Hill at sundown at a cost of 58 men killed or wounded. This battle was the costliest battle of the war for the Twelfth Virginia Cavalry. Even though Buford withdrew his forces, the Union Cavalry showed its mettle at Brandy Station.

Shielded by the cavalry, Lee and his army crossed the Blue Ridge and entered the Shenandoah Valley on his way north. The Union generals knew Lee was moving but were unable to ascertain his intentions. Alfred Pleasonton attempted to break Lee's cavalry cover. The Union Cavalry attacked the Confederates at Aldie on June 17th and at Middleburg on June 19th. Both attempts failed.

On June 21 the Federals re-opened their westward drive through Loudoun County after Lee. John Buford tried to turn the Confederate left flank while Alfred Pleasonton's main column engaged Stuart's center at Upperville. Sharp fighting ensued all along the cavalry front.

Superior Union forces fighting in earnest forced Stuart to fall back toward Upperville. Buford, pressing forward hampered Stuart's line of retreat. A hill near Upperville offered the Confederates the high ground. Anticipating this maneuver, Federal troops reached the hill first and blocked



the Confederate path by taking up a position behind a stone fence. In marching position, the Confederates had to turn to get into position. Stone walls parallel to the road and the fields beyond presented frustrating obstacles to an effective Confederate engagement. Fences had to be torn down before the artillery could unlimber its guns in position to fire on fielded troops to the west. The Twelfth was ordered to pass through a gap in the fence and check the advance of the enemy "but such heavy fire was concentrated upon the opening that the head of the regiment was shattered and thrown into confusion."<sup>23</sup> Captain O'Ferrall, commander of Company I, fell critically wounded and several other men were killed. Thomas Garber counted among the dead.

Captain O'Ferrall, who was later elected governor of Virginia, penned his recollection of the battle near Upperville:

For some time prior to the Battle of Upperville the color-bearer of the Twelfth Cavalry was Tom Garber a member of my company. . . He entered the charge at Upperville in the van, with his colors streaming in the breezes above his head as he charged down the field to the stone fence. There under a rain of lead he stood waving the stars and bars until just as I was shot, he reeled in his saddle, and still clinging to his flag staff he fell to the ground dead.<sup>24</sup>

The Twelfth suffered heavy casualties at Brandy Station and Upperville. The seventy-six dead and wounded constituted an entire company. Pushing into the Valley, the regiment remained behind to guard their Valley while Lee invaded Pennsylvania.<sup>25</sup>

For the Garber family there were more pressing matters. A second son had lost his life for the Southern Cause.<sup>26</sup> First word of Tom's death reached Staunton shortly after the battle.

Staunton  
June 25 1863

Dear Uncle

I have just heard Maj G. P. Eskridge told M. B. Evans that Tom was killed & his body left upon the Field. I have been down to see Col Henderson & Bill but can learn nothing. I hope it is untrue. Come in before you say anything to any of the family about it.

[trly] your nephew  
M G Harman

Later, Cousin Lewis Harman wrote to Addie Garber the details of her brother's death.

Hd. Gen. 12th Va Cavalry  
Rippon Jeff Co July 20th 1863

Dear Addie,

Your letter of the 15th has just been received & as I expect we will be marching soon I will answer it at once. I started dear Tom's knapsack home on the 17th just in the care of Ferd Calligham who took Uncle Ash's baggage home after his sad accident which I suppose you heard of before this.<sup>27</sup> I have also poor Tom's knife & Testament which I failed to send by Ferd on the 17th. I will take good care of both & send them home to you by first opportunity. Unfortunately I did not see dear Tom on the morning after he died, as we moved forward at dawn in pursuit of the enemy when I had gotten back in the evening he had been buried by a party of his company who had been set to bury the dear fellow. The poor fellow suffered very little dear cousin & I am sure he died as I wish to die & all other braved soldiers fighting in our most just cause. When I see you which I hope will not be a very long time from this I will tell you all I know. You must excuse this short note, as I have not the heart to write after my late misfortune in losing my dear Uncle. Good by Love to all.

Yr Affectionate Cousin  
Lewis

Circumstances dictated that the dead be buried in the field. Burial details, sent out in the wake of a battle to inter their fallen comrades in shallow graves, worked along side the enemy sent out for the same purpose.<sup>28</sup> Families quite naturally wanted the bodies of their dead relatives returned home for burial. To accomplish this they often had to turn to entrepreneurs who charged a fee for the disinterment, embalming, and shipment in a coffin of a corpse.<sup>29</sup> After the war, women organized memorial associations which sent out parties to recover dead Confederates within a given radius for reinterment in mass graves in local cemeteries.

Thomas M. Garber is buried in Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton, Virginia. How his body came to be buried there, or if indeed it is there, cannot be determined. No record of a funeral exists in the cemetery records. His grave in the Garber family plot, and that of his brother Edward "Ned" Valentine Garber, who was killed at the Second Manassas, is marked by a memorial as well as a headstone bearing his initials.

Not a family or community in the United States in 1865 remained untouched by the war. While it is impossible to ascertain the total number of lives lost, civilian and military, historians agree that over 620,000 soldiers lost their lives in the four year conflict,<sup>30</sup> from the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 to the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Countless others returned home disabled by missing limbs or lingering illness and the invisible emotional scars of war. For many Southerners, little was left of home worth returning to.

Like bile, a bitter taste remained in the South for years after the war. The war effort devoured hundreds of millions of dollars. Antebellum social structure and the "peculiar institution", once so rabidly guarded, lay in ruin. Only time allowed land laid to waste by advancing troops to recover. Real peace was years away. With one quarter of her manhood dead, the South buried not just her men and their unfulfilled dreams, she buried her future.

Who was Thomas Garber that we should weep for him? "He rests in Thornrose Cemetery at Staunton, beneath the sod of Old Augusta, and while she can boast of many gallant sons, she had none more gallant than the young color-bearer of the Twelfth Cavalry who yielded up his life at Upperville."<sup>31</sup> That we weep for him we weep for ourselves.

The following transcriptions of letters written by Addie Garber and Michael Garber, along with the complete letter from Asher Harman are included below.

Staunton Jan 19th 1862

My Dear Brother Tommie,

Your Chaplain Mr. Aury came out just now to see us (I reckon us) if not I cam in first one after Pa to see him. I like him very well, wish he would have stayed all day, so I could have heard him talk [all] more about you, he kindly offered to carry a letter to you. he preached for us yesterday morning, and if he preaches that way in camp he sure to do some good. Please become well acquainted with him and always go to meeting. You have not written dear brother since you left us, wont you write me a few lines soon? I fear you did not enjoy you visit home much, did you. Sandie has been here for a couple of days ent up to Rockbridge to see Lida. Cousin John is sick so he sent after him as he wants to come home. Saturday evening six girs and six gentlemen left here to take a ride. I was in the party, and almost froze to death we had to get oof at some person's house & warm ourselves. When Sandy came home be told a tale about Ashers coming home I went down to the cars two evenings in succession to meet him. the second evening we met cousin Will who had come up from Richmond and he said that he had been down to

see the boys and they were expecting a fight so he advised Asher to stay until it was over he has the furlough though and can come home when he wants to. It is so terribly cold today. I wonder if you are warm enough. Has Ferd returned to camp yet rather has he reached there. I do hope you whipped the yankees goo this last time.

Sisters children have been quite sick (Alice & Louis) poor little Lulie is still so. they have the whooping cough also. sister Lizzie and her boy get a long very well. they do not go to shcoo (I think she said so) teaches them all at home. Mag & Margie came out here for me to go Mrs. Opie's but as the young pastor was here I would'nt go. I now Mary Opie was not at home, too. I told them so but they did not want to know it.

Did you read the books you carried with you. Mrs Forest & Jennie L are going to try to get North so far as Washington. Jennie said she would take a letter for me so I'll honor cousin Mat so far as a letter will go [Margie told me if I would carryt a letter] I stayed with [margie] Aunt Nancy last night. & we had a fine breakfast this morning. Tommie if you ever want those three dollars I asked you for Xmas send me and you shall have them. I never intend and never intended sending them, I only asked for them to keep you from spending them on some [ascless] thing which you would not want. perhaps someday you'll need three dollar's. (little as it\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_)  
Ma spoke to Mr Maury as though he had the charge of you telling him to take particular care of you. he said he was very young himself. I wish you could come home and have a nice time. and a nice long furlough. Lewis [visits] home frequently I believe. I wish you would do so too my dear Tommie.

Pa got two hogs and Ma is busy making sausage & cutting thme up. dont it seem queer just to have two hogs at butchering. We killed our poor little calf Friday which was a great distress to Nellie. I have written rather a long letter that usual. and now my distress is where will I get an envelope. I really cannot raise but one and that has a United States postage stamp on it.

Good byenow my dear brother please write soon to your Sister

Addie,

Really if some one is not going down to the Cavalry I cannot write to you for I do not know hat Post Office you are near

Tell the young girles the soldier boys don't like the was this Marylanders have of carrying them off there will be none left for us when we return<sup>1</sup>



Camp near Madison C.H.  
July 30 1863

Dear Sister Kide

It has been a long time since I received a letter from you, I suppose you have some on the way, but as we have been marching for the last month constantly they have not been able to find my camp. I received a letter from Addie yesterday also a short one from Cos Lidia. I understand you have been complayning a good deal latley, I hope you are well now. You must take good care of your health. We have had two dear brothers taken from us, God grant the rest may be left us. WE expect to remain here a few dayes. this will be the first rest (of any length) we have had since we left [?] States the 12th of June. Our Horses are almost completely broken down, can scarcely drag the [?], This morning is the first corn they have been given for 20 dayes, as we are near the Rail Road we will be able to get good [food] for them. Mr. Leallan I sent out an inquiry about Jim Him & Michael Buneghan deserted the company in York City and have been herd of since.

Tell Ma I left a bundle of 25 yards of Calico in New Market at the house of Mr. D. L. Shomo's Asher left a bundle there too, we were not able to carry it and did not think that we would be near home. If you have the opportunity you can get the bundles from Mr. Shomo's. He is a brother of Henry Shomo of Staunton. I am very badly off for shirts. I have to borrow one untill I can have mine washed, I have but the one. Our Corps is the only part of the army encamped here, do not hear where the rest of the army is, it is [said] that we will move in the direction of Gordonsville in few days. ASK Nellie why she does not write to me occasionally. I suppose both of you are having holiday now. Does Nellie run off as much as ever, tell her she must be a good girl.

Cos John I understand is better write soon and tell me about him.

We are have many black berries as we can eat-there is an abundance of them this year.

Love to all my friends. tell them I will expect to hear frequently from home now, as we are expecting the army to take a rest of a few days and letters will be able to find the way to camp. Tell me all about home, everything is interesting, does the foundry look like old times, is Henderson [cupola tender] Remember me to Chap. and do write soon to your Bro Mike

I say Asher & Mike sunday Len Lee said theirs was the best service Battery on the field.

Camp near Charleston Sept 24th 62

Dear Uncle

I have been for some time intended to write to you, but pressing times have prevented my doing so. For a wander I am quiet this morning with nothing but the usual camp duties to perform. Tom is well, tell his mother that I have been very much & agreeably disappointed in him. When he left Staunton with me I thought he would be hard to manage & in truth I thought him little or no account. But I have found him not only usefull, generous & Brave to a fault, But I have found in him a pious regard for the truth, His word when given never broken, a disposition & temper rarely if ever fuffed, and for one of his age a Boy that one might be proud to call their son. In the ardous & hotly contested fields we have operated on, He has always been at his Post. And at Brandy Manassas & Poolsville my heart beat with pride, when I saw the flag of my Regiment ever in front & wave proudly in the hottest of the fight by him. Say to his mother that I will care for him as I would [7 will] for one of my Boys if they were old enough to fight for their Country Freedom. I have makde no request of Tom, but that it has been readily granted. He has thrown aside whiskey Smoking & Tobacco, and I think is thring very hard to be all tha tyou & his mother desire him to be. I have not written this to flatter him, but as a just tribute to a good & gallant Boy. My kindest Love to Aunt Mary Jane Addy & the Children By the way the Boys tell me Addy & Gen [Thomson] are about to make a match. Tell Adddy she must wait until Tom & me can come home, to enjoy the fun & good things. Cousin Jimmy shall give her a big fuss. Good bye.

Your affec nephew  
Asher W. Harman

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## AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1870

Copied By

Anne Covington Kidd

[Continued from Volume 25, Number 2]

Died at his residence near Deerfield ... on the 5th of Jan., Mr. John AILOR, aged eighty-two years .... a soldier in the war of 1812 .... He survived his wife but a short time .... leaves several daughters. [SS 1 February 1870]

Sept. 2 ... Effie Lee [ANDERSON], infant daughter of Col. W. D. and Mrs. M. V. Anderson, aged 1 month and 25 days. [SS 6 September 1870]  
... 30th ult., at his residence near Fishersville ... Maj. Geo. T. ANTRIM. [SV 4 February 1870]

On the 25th of Nov., Lieucetta H. [AREHART], daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Arehart, at the age of 3 years, 2 months and 16 days. [SS 6 December 1870]

On the 29th of June, near Salem church, Mr. John AREON. [SS 12 July 1870]

At the residence of A. W. McClure, Esq., in this place ... the 12th inst. ... Miss Emily ARNALL, daughter of John T. Arnall, deceased. [SS 15 February 1870] A Tribute of Respect .... adopted by the Teachers and Pupils of the "Wesleyan Female Institute" .... Wm. A. Harris, President. Mrs. Sallie C. Trueheart, Secretary. [SS 1 Mar 1870] ... Emily F. ARNALL [SV 4 March 1870]

... 17th inst., at his residence in this place, John H. AST, in the 75th year of his age. [SS 18 October 1870]

At Staunton ... July 11th ... Jethro B. BAILEY, a native of Newport, R.I., and for many years a resident of New Orleans, La., in the 62nd year of his age. [SS 19 July 1870]

On the 24th ult., at her residence, in this place, Mrs. Martha Steele BALDWIN, consort of the late Judge Briscoe G. Baldwin, in the 79th year of her age .... was the youngest daughter of the late Chancellor John Brown, and a sister of the late Judge James E. Brown of Wytheville. She was born in the county of Prince William in September, 1791. When her father was elected, in 1802, Chancellor of the District, of which Staunton was a part, he removed, with his family, to Staunton, where he continued to reside until his death, in October 1826. Mrs. Baldwin was married in 1811 ... she reared a family of six children—five of whom survive her .... member of the Presbyterian church [SS 1 February 1870] .... was the youngest daughter of the late Judge James E. Brown, of Wytheville .... [who resided in Staunton] until his death, in October 1820. [VV 3 February 1870]

Near Greenville ... Mr. John BARE, in the 70th year of his age ....

member of the Presbyterian church. [SS 24 May 1870] ... in the seventy ninth year of his age. [SV 20 May 1870]

On Thursday last ... sold by E. M. Cushing .... the storehouse on the "wharf" in Staunton, belonging to the estate of Richard BARRETT, deceased, was sold to John Burns for ... \$2,005. [SS 13 September 1870]

On the 11th inst., at the residence of his parents, near Staunton, Willie Welch [BAUMGARDNER], infant son of Capt. James and Mollie Baumgardner. [SS 19 April 1870] ... BUMGARDNER [SV 15 April 1870]

Died, December 30th, 1869, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Baylor ... Jacob BEARD, aged 85 years and 15 days .... member of the Mt. Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Congregation for more than 35 years; the greater part of which time he served as an elder .... husband ... father. [SS 18 January 1870]

Near Parnassus ... on the 3rd instant, John M. BEARD, son of James Beard, aged 27 years, 2 months and 27 days. [SS 12 July 1870] ... on the 3rd ult. .... was the only earthly support of aged parents. [SV 8 July 1870]

Died ... Jan. 1st ... Janet Taylor BELL, eldest daughter of Major H. M. Bell, of this place .... scarcely in her teens. [SS 4 January 1870] ... eldest daughter of Major H. M. and Ann Bell. [SV 7 January 1870] ... January 2nd [SV 14 January 1870]

Died in Winchester, Va. ... Dec. 11th 1869, Mr. Nathaniel BENT, aged 63 years. On Dec. 18th, Mrs. Martha BENT, his wife, in her 57th year. On Dec. 24th, Miss Roxalina D. BENT, (sister of Mrs. Dr. McFarland of Augusta county,) aged 67 years. [SS 8 February 1870] ... Dec. 11, 1868, Nathaniel BENT, aged 62 years. [VV 10 February 1870]

... last Saturday night ... Mr. Joseph BLACK, of Keezletown, Rockingham county ... stabbed to death, at the house of Mr. John W. Bush, of this place. Mayor N. K. Trout had a jury of inquest summoned immediately, consisting of Messrs. John B. Scherer, S. H. Lushbaugh, F. M. Young, Joseph F. Tannehill, M. P. Funkhouser, G. G. Bunch, Geo. A. Smith, Y. M. Bickle, H. Ker, Wm. L. Balthis, Jno. B. Hoge, and M. Doom ... examination made by Dr. Hanger ... Geo. W. Smiley ... murdered the said Joseph Black. Smiley and Black were bricklayers in the employment of Mr. Wm. Jordan ... boarding at the house of Mr. Bush .... are both men of families .... [Smiley living] near Mt. Crawford. [SS 15 November 1870] .... Mr. Bush, Mr. Smiley's brother-in-law. [SV 18 November 1870]

Died in Sherando ... on the 19th of January ... Dr. Jessey BOLSLEY, aged 67 years .... member of the Methodist Episcopal Church .... [leaves] widow .... children .... His remains were deposited in the Sherando Church yard. [SS 1 March 1870] ... Dr. Jessey BOLSEY [VV 3 March 1870]

Died in Staunton, on the 19th instant, Mrs. Sarah A. BRADY, in the 56th year of her age. [SS 27 December 1870]

A little son [\_\_\_\_\_ BROWN] of a Mr. Brown, who resides on Mr. A. A. Crawford's farm near Moscow, was kicked by a mule, Nov. 22nd, from the effects of which he died a few days after. [SV 9 December 1870]

... 7th inst., Miss Hattie [BROWN], fourth daughter of Mr. Cyrus Brown of Waynesboro. [SS 25 October-1870]

On the 13th inst., at the residence of her husband, Mr. Cyrus Brown, in Waynesborough, Mrs. R. C. BROWN, in the 40th year of her age. [SV 18 March 1870]

On September 27th ... Mrs. Mary Ann BRUNT, aged 26 years, 9 months and 6 days .... left a husband, two little girls. [SV 4 November 1870]

Died ... at her residence in Sangersville ... Jan. 6th ... Mrs. Caroline BRYAN, wife of Reuben Bryan, in the 52nd year of her age .... member of the Presbyterian church. [SS 18 January 1870]

Departed this life, Sept. 7th, at his residence near Deerfield ... John BUSH, aged 87 years and 6 months. [SS 13 September 1870]

At his residence near Parnassus ... 25th of August, Mr. James BYERS, aged 77 years. [SS 30 August 1870]

A young man by the name of CAMPBELL, employed at Catopaxi Furnace, near Sherando, while felling trees, last week, was .. crushed to death. [SV 15 April 1870]

At the Western Lunatic Asylum ... the 7th of April ... Henry CARRIER, Jr., son of Henry Carrier, dec'd., of Rockingham county. [SS 3 May 1870]

Mrs. Mary E. CARTER, wife of Henry C. Carter, formerly of this place, died in Mt. Crawford, Rockingham county ... 7th of January ... aged 26 years, 5 months, and 26 days .... leaves three small children. [SS 11 January 1870]

On the 16th inst., at the residence of her husband, Wm. Chapman, Esq., of Waynesboro', Mrs. Mary CHAPMAN. [SS 22 November 1870]

At his residence in this county, on the 29th instant, Mr. John CHURCHMAN, in the 78th year of his age .... funeral procession at the Episcopal church. [SS 31 May 1870] ... residence, "Chapel Hill" .... born in Augusta county, on the 31st of May 1792, and was a lineal descendant of John Churchman and wife who emigrated from England to Pennsylvania ... with William Penn. Mr. C. was married in 1819, in Staunton, where he resided until 1827, when he removed to his farm in the country .... For thirty years he was sheriff of this county .... member of the Protestant Episcopal church .... a Mason. [SS 5 July 1870]

At the residence of her brother, near Fishersville, on May 14th, Miss Sarah A. CLEMENTS, in the 32nd year of her age. [SV 20 May 1870]

Near Summerdean, on the 12th ult., Robert Lee [COCHRAN], youngest son of George W. and Mary Jane Cochran, aged 7 months and 1 day. [SS 1 November 1870]

Died at the residence of her father, Dr. Isaac Hall, on the 31st of January ... Mrs. Mary H. [COCHRANE], wife of B. F. Cochran, aged 23 years and seven months. [SS 8 February 1870] ... Mrs. Mary H. COCHRAN. [SV 4 February 1870]

Died at Glen Allen ... the late residence of her brother-in-law Gen.

Kenton Harper, on the 27th of March, Miss Catharine COLHOUN, in the 76th year of her age. [SS 19 April 1870] ... Miss Catharine CALHOUN, in the 80th year of her age. [SV 1 April 1870]

In Staunton, on the 5th inst., Nannine R. [COLLINS], youngest daughter of the late Richard and Mary Collins, age 18 years. Her funeral will take place ... from St. Francis Church. [SS 6 September 1870]

In this place, on Wednesday morning last ... Willie Graham [COOTES], daughter of B. F. and M. E. Cootes—aged 2 years and 2 months. [SS 6 December 1870] ... November 30th [SV 2 December 1870]

.... graves of the settlers ... to the West of the church (Tinkling Spring), surrounded by a stone wall in the shape of a section of horse-shoe ... Rev. John McCUE, who expired Sabbath morning, Sept. 20, A.D., 1818, in his 66th year .... [labored at] T. Spring ... 27 years. This monument was erected by his sons .... This is the epitaph of the third stated minister of this congregation. CRAIG lies buried near Augusta church .... WADDELL in Louisa ... near where the counties of Orange and Albemarle and Louisa meet .... the epitaph of the fourth minister of this congregation, and professor elect of the Union Theological Seminary ... Rev. James C. WILSON .... Born in Rockbridge co., Va., Oct. 21st, 1784. Died ... in Waynesboro', Jan. 10, 1840; having served the church of Tinkling Spring, 21 years and 2 mos. .... [left] an absent and misguided child—his only son .... That son was converted by his death sickness in 1842. [SS 27 December 1870] Died, on the 2nd inst. ... at his home in Bath county, Mr. John S. CRAWFORD, in the 52 year of his age. For many years Mr. C. successfully conducted a large mercantile establishment in Staunton. [SS 5 April 1870]

On Dec. 26th, 1869 ... at the residence of her brothers, near Mint Spring, Miss Mary CRIST. [SS 25 January 1870]

At the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Fleming, of Rockingham, Daniel CROUSEHORN, of this county, aged 28 years .... leave a young wife. [SV 26 August 1870]

John CULLINAN, the little boy who was accidentally shot by Neddy Alexander some weeks since in Waynesboro', lingered until the 6th when he died .... he laid at the residence of Dr. C. Alexander. [SV 15 April 1870]

On Feb. 12th, on Christian's Creek, in this county, Mrs. Harriet M. CURRIER, the wife of Wilson Currier, in the 57th year of her age. [SS 1 March 1870]

On Jan. 24th ... near Spring Hill ... Hezekiah Bernard [CURRY], son of Rev. H. W. and Rachel Curry, aged 2 years, 1 month and 6 days. [SS 1 February 1870]

On the 14th inst., at the residence of her parents, near Waynesboro', Emma Jane [DALHOUSE], daughter of Jno. H. and Catharine Dalhouse, aged 26 years. [SV 18 March 1870]

Died at the residence of his parents in Augusta county, on the 9th instant, Georgie [DISE], youngest son of P. M. and Henrietta Dise, aged six years and two months. [SS 27 December 1870]

At his residence near Deerfield ... 6th instant ... Mr. Charles A. DUNLAP, aged 56 years, 9 months and one day .... ruling elder in the Presbyterian church at Rocky Spring. [SS 17 May 1870]

On the 23rd of April ... at the residence of her father—Mr. John Brown—near Swoope's depot ... Mrs. Sallie C. [DUNLAP], in the 25th year of her age. [SS 17 May 1870] ... wife of Wm. Bailey Dunlap [VV 19 May 1870]

The farm of Joseph EARMON. dec'd, containing 100 acres, near Rockland mills in this county, was sold on the 22nd of Feb., by H. Parker, auctioneer, at \$50 per acre—Samuel Carroll, purchaser. [SS 1 March 1870]

Died at the residence of her brother, E. L. Edmondson, near Staunton, on the 24th of August, Miss Lucy A. EDMONDSON, aged 35 years. [SS 20 September 1870]

On the 17th inst. near Parnassus, Mrs. Elizabeth [FAIRBURN], wife of Wm. Fairburn, in the 63rd year of her age. [SV 29 April 1870]

On the 29th ult., Mr. Daniel FALL ... living near Churchville ... aged about 50 years. [SS 6 September 1870] ... in his 52nd year .... [leaves] wife ... children .... member of the Methodist church. [SS 13 September 1870]

... 21st inst., Tommy [FALLEN], son of John and Catharine Fallen, aged 4 years. [VV 29 September 1870]

Died near Salem church, Cyrus J. [FARROW], infant son of Mr. Franklin Farrow, aged one year, three months and thirteen days. [SS 24 May 1870]

Mr. Henry H. FORSYTHE who had been a worthy citizen of Staunton for several years, on the Saturday preceding ... [April 27], removed to Richmond, and [was killed] .... [leaves] wife and children .... [accident] in court-room of the Supreme Court of Appeals. [SS 26 April 1870] Tribute of Respect .... Staunton Lodge, No. 45 I. O. O. F. [SS 3 May 1870]

On the 26th of December 1869, at the residence of his father near Spring Hill ... Mr. George W. FRAME, aged 28 years, 1 month and 8 days .... had been living in Illinois for some time, and returned about a month before his death to his native State. [SS 4 January 1870]

May 17th, near Hermitage, Mrs. Letty FREEMAN, widow of Richard Freeman, about 84 years of age .... member of Presbyterian church. [SS 24 May 1870]

... at his residence, near Fishersville, on the 6th of Feb., Mr. Richard Freeman, in the 79th year of his age. [SS 1 March 1870]

At Arbor Hill, on the 7th inst., Mr. Peter FRENGER, in the 66th year of his age. [SS 18 October 1870]

On the 20th inst., James Edwin [FRETWELL], infant son of Wm. W. and Sarah Fretwell, aged 2 years. [SS 27 September 1870]

Calvin J. FULLER, formerly of this county, died in Johnson county, Mo., about the 25th of last month .... left this county in September, 1866, and took up his residence in Missouri, where he remained up to the time of his death. [SS 20 December 1870] ... 23rd of November ... formerly of Mt. Solon ... in the 46th year of his age. [SV 16 December 1870]

... 14th inst., at the residence of Mr. John S. Ellis, Mrs. Elizabeth FULLER, aged 76 years, 1 month and 9 days. [SS 22 February 1870] ... at the residence of her son-in-law, J. S. Ellis, Esq., near Waynesboro. [SS 8 March 1870]

At her residence in Dutch Hollow in this county on ... the 19th inst., Mrs. Catherine FULWIDER, aged 101 years, 3 months and 19 days. [SS 26 April 1870]

Died, on the 11th inst., in this county, Miss GARLAND, daughter of J. R. and Caroline Garland, aged about 27 years. [VV 21 April 1870]

... April the 8th, at his residence near Waynesboro, Justis GEORGE, aged 78 years. [SS 19 April 1870]

Died at the residence of his father, Mr. Overton Gibson, near Fishersville ... Mr. John B. GIBSON .... a stay and comfort to his aged father and motherless brothers and sisters. [SS 26 July 1870]

Died in Wytheville, Va. ... April 17th ... Mr. Jacob GILBERT .... was born in Staunton, but had been a resident of Wytheville for many years .... member of the M. E. Church. [SS 26 April 1870] ... Jacob GILDERT [SV 29 April 1870]

Died, on the 31st ult., near Greenville ... Mr. David W. GILKESON, aged 22 years. [SS 12 April 1870]

In Staunton ... 18th instant, Francis Desales GORMAN, infant son of W. H. and Julia Gorman, [SS 24 May 1870] ... Francis DeSales GORMAN, eldest child. [SS 31 May 1870]

On the 15th ult., Loretta Julie [GORMAN], daughter of W. H. and J. C. Gorman, aged 4 months and 15 days. [SS 4 October 1870] ... Loretta Julia [VV 29 September 1870]

... Chas. GRANDISON, (colored) formerly the servant of Thomas Barrett, died in this place on the 11th instant, in the 79th year of his age. [SS 15 February 1870]

In Covington, K.Y., August 11th ... Mrs. Rosana GRAHAM, formerly of Staunton, aged 71 years, 6 months and 11 days. [VV 24 November 1870]

Mr. John GUTHRIE, Sen., for many years a ruling elder of the Presbyterian churches of Tinkling spring and Waynesboro ... died at a very advanced age—about the year 1840—leaving a family of ten children—four sons and six daughters—all of whom are now living. The ages of the family ... [make] an average of 67 years. Mr. Guthrie never lost a child .... Five of the daughters are now widows. His sons are all citizens of Augusta county. [SS 22 February 1870]

On Feb. 23d, at the residence of Mrs. C. B. Taylor, Miss Louisa McCaa HAILE, daughter of C. A. Haile, Esq., aged 19 years, 5 months and 7 days. [SS 1 March 1870] ... funeral service ... at the Episcopal Church. [SV 25 February 1870]

Died on the 23rd of July, Alexander HALL, aged 3 years and 5 months; on the 18th of August, George HALL, aged 18 months—children of James and Maria Hall, of this county. [SS 27 September 1870]

... 16 instant, in Rollinsburg, Monroe county, W. Va., Mr. Thomas HALNAN, formerly of this county, in the 21st year of his age. [SS 22 November 1870]

At his residence on Christians Creek, on the 14th of November, Wm. HAMILTON, aged about 71 years. [SS 13 December 1870]

On the 25 of April, in Dutch Hollow in this county, John HANGER, aged 80 years, 1 month and 16 days. [SS 10 May 1870]

Nannie R. [HANGER], daughter of Wm. S. and Margaret Hanger, died at Churchville, December 31st, 1869, in her 21st year. [SS 25 January 1870] ... Nannie Robertson [HANGER] [SV 28 January 1870]

... 26th instant ... Charles Lynn [HARDY], son of Mr. John M. and Mary V. Hardy, of this place—aged 3 years, 3 months and 6 days. [SS 29 November 1870]

In Staunton ... March 2d ... Hattie Jane [HARLAN]—daughter of George and Jane S. Harlan—aged 15 years, 7 months and 13 days .... was a member of the Sunday School of the Methodist church. [SS 8 March 1870] Tribute of Respect. At a regular meeting of Staunton M. E. S. S. South ... Supt. C. W. Hunter, in the chair .... James W. Newton, John W. Carroll, E. M. Cushing, Committee. [SS 15 March 1870]

On the 8th inst., at the residence of her husband near Waynesboro, Mrs. Mary HARNER, wife of Henry Harner, Esq., in the 61st year of her age. [SV 12 August 1870]

At her husband's residence, three miles from this place ... the 19th inst., Mrs. Henry HARRISON, in the 46th year of her age. [SS 21 June 1870]

... 9th instant, at the residence of her father, near this place, Miss Maria HARRISON, eldest daughter of Henry Harrison, Esq., in the 16th year of her age. [SS 19 July 1870]

At Fishersville, Feb. 4th, Mrs. Mary Jane HAWES, about 35 years of age. [SS 1 March 1870]

At Mount Vernon Forge, Va. ... 20th ult. ... peacefully fell asleep in Jesus, Antie Brown [HAYNES] ... wife of D. F. Haynes, aged 36 years. [SS 1 March 1870] ... Annie Brown [HAYNES] [SV 4 March 1870]

Died, Dec. 29th, near Bethel church ... Miss Margaret HAYS, in her 86th year. [SS 25 January 1870]

On the 8th inst., near Sherando ... Mrs. Mary Ann HAZEL, in the 17th year of her age .... eldest daughter of Mr. David P. Garner, formerly of Staunton. [SS 19 April 1870]

On Friday last, a horrible accident, caused by the explosion of kerosene oil, occurred to two young girls, aged about 15 and 18 respectively, the daughters of Mr. Edward Heiser, residing several miles west of Churchville .... the ... girls, with their clothes ablaze, ran to the residence of A. B. Lightner, Esq., a distance of half a mile .... The medical aid of the Drs. Wilson, of Churchville, was ... summoned .... the elder, Letitia [HEISER], dying on Friday ... and the younger, Amanda [HEISER], lingering until ... Saturday. The were buried side by side in the graveyard at Hebron .... the

only member of the family present when the accident occurred, a child 18 months. [SS 16 August 1870]

Died ... Nov. 17th, 1869, in the city of Philadelphia ... Dr. Samuel HENDREN of this county, in the 42nd year of his age .... leaves a brother and bereaved sisters. [SS 1 March 1870]

The Shenandoah Valley has a lengthy obituary notice of the Rev. Ambrose HENKEL, who died at New Market on the 6th of January, aged 83. He entered the ministry in ... 1823, and preached his first sermon in German, in Mt. Calvary (Hawksbill) church, Page county .... He preached his last sermon in Bethlehem church, Augusta county, in ... 1868 .... was a printer by trade, and published a newspaper at New Market in 1807. [SS 18 January 1870]

Mr. Conrad HENSLEY, oldest son of Mr. Robt. Hensley, near Wayneboro ... in Blackwell's mill dam, one mile from Waynesboro, on last Tuesday ... was drowned. His body was recovered by Wm. M. Bush. [SS 19 July 1870] ... Conrad L. HENSLEY, son of Robert D. Hensley, Esq., of Bethlehem, Augusta county ... July 13th .... [at] "Blackwells Mill Dam," on South River ... [leaves parents] brothers and sisters .... was 22 years and 13 days old. [SS 23 August 1870]

At her residence, in Newport, on the 11th inst., Mrs. Catherine E. HITE, consort of Capt. J. F. Hite and daughter of Peter and M. M. Lucas, aged 50 years, 10 months and 17 days .... She leaves an afflicted husband and ... two daughters and two sons. [SS 23 August 1870]

Glade Township, Barbour Co., W. Va. July 24th .... As Joseph Hoffman and wife, with two children, were going on horseback today on a visit to his father's a limb fell from a dead tree and struck Mrs. HOFFMAN on the head, killing her instantly, and also the child [ ] HOFFMAN, nine months old, she was carrying .... the daughter of Nicholas Rhyan, Esq., of Augusta county. [SS 16 August 1870] See Mary A. E. HUFFMAN.

Died on the 28th December, 1869, Mr. Jonathan HORN, in the 73rd year of his age. [SS 4 January 1870]

Died ... on the 19th inst., near Staunton, Mrs. Mary V. HOUFF, consort of John F. Houff—in the 20th year of her age. [SS 29 March 1870]

Mary A. E. HUFFMAN, wife of Jasper M Huffman, and eldest daughter of Nicholas Ryan, died in Barber county, W. Va., July 24th ... aged 32 years, 9 months, and 12 days .... [also] a little child, nine months of age .... [leaves] husband .. [and] a little boy .... On the 27th of November their remains were interred in the family graveyard in Augusta county .... The husband is now at his father-in-law's in this county. [SS 27 December 1870] See Mrs. HOFFMAN.

Mr. Bucher HUNTER, who was employed on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, near Big Bend Tunnel in Monroe county, W. Va., was murdered ... 24th inst. .... His remains were interred in this place last Thursday. [SS 1 November 1870] Mr. Geo. HUNTER, better known as Booker HUNTER [SV 4 November 1870] ... in Greenbrier county, West

Virginia, (so-called) .... was the Paymaster for Messrs. Menefee & Co., contractors on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad .... only 31 .... only remaining brother of W. J. Hunter, Esq. ... agent of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad company in this city [VV 3 November 1870]

Mr. J. Albert HUNTER, of this place, who died at the Salt Sulphur Springs on Saturday, was buried yesterday from the Episcopal church .... known as a railroad man .... [of] the C & O R. R. Company. [SS 16 August 1870] ... the 13th inst. ... formerly of Albemarle, lately of Staunton, in the 28th year of his age. [SV 19 August 1870]

Died ... near Mint Spring, March 5th ... Miss Martha HYDEN, aged 61 years .... a member of Bethel (Presbyterian) Church. [SS 22 March 1870]

... 14th inst., Effie Louis [IDE], daughter of E. Louis and Sallie A. E. Ide, aged 3 years, 8 months and 1 day. [SS 25 October 1870]

On November 26th, in Staunton ... Willie Baldwin [IDE], infant son of Prof. E. Louis and Sallie A. E. Ide. This is the fifth child these ... parents have been called upon to give up ... in about three years .... one is left. [SS 29 November 1870]

Mrs. Elizabeth S. JOHNSON, wife of Mr. Robt. Johnson, departed this life in Staunton Dec. 22nd, 1869, aged 62 years 6 months and 15 days .... born on the 4th of June, 1807, entered the communion of the Episcopal Church in 1830. [SS 4 January 1870] ... 18 days [SV 7 January 1870]

On the 24th ult., at his residence at the W. L. Asylum, Samuel JOHNSON, in the 45th year of his age. [SS 1 March 1870]

In Georgetown, Md., on the 11th day of January, Mrs. Catharine Virginia [KERACOFE], wife of the Rev. J. W. Keracofe—aged 23 years, 9 months and 1 day. Her remains were brought to Virginia and interred in Mt. Tabor graveyard in this county. [SS 1 February 1870] ... Rev. J. W. Keracofe, of the Virginia Annual Conference .... The subject of this notice was born in Augusta County ... [united] with the Lutheran Church. Subsequent to her marriage, in 1863, she joined the United Brethren Church .... In her death, two little children are bereft of a mother. [SS 15 February 1870] ... Georgetown, Frederick county, Md. [SV 18 February 1870]

On Jan. 24th ... in Spring Hill, John Arey Hiet [KERCHESKIE], son of Joseph and Mary Kercheskie, aged 1 year, 1 month and 11 days. [SS 1 February 1870]

Died at her home, in Grant county, Kentucky ... 15th day of July, Rebecca F. [KINNEY], the wife of Robert H. Kinney, and daughter of Lewis Wayland, Esq., dec'd, formerly of Augusta county ... in the 48th year of her age. [SS 2 August 1870]

... 7th inst., at her residence in this place, Mrs. Rebecca F. KINNEY, relict of Wm. Kinney, Esq., and daughter of Gen. Robert Porterfield dec'd, in the 73rd year of her age. [SS 18 October 1870]

From the Lexington, Ky., Statesman. Robert P. KINNEY .... born in Augusta county, Va., on the 22nd day of January, 1787, and died at his residence in Fayette county, Ky. ... 23d of November, 1869, and so was 82



years, 10 months and one day old .... was the seventh in a family of ten children, and ... outlived them all. He had four brothers, James and Matthew, of Fayette, and Wm. M. and Alex. R., of Bourbon. The latter was a surgeon in the war of 1812.—He was, himself, also in that war, the personal friend and favorite of General Harrison and Winchester. His sister Elizabeth, married Robinson Montgomery, of Missouri; Rebecca married Wm. Givens, of the Green River country, and Agnes married Joe R. Lyle, of Paris. The others died single. His mother's sisters were married—Nancy to Joseph McDowell; Phebe to Robert Kenney; Sarah to Robert Boggs; Patience to Jas. Kerr; Euphemia to Daniel McDowell; Polly to Wm. McCreery. His mother was a Houston, and her mother was a McCreery. His grandmother's sister was married—Sarah to Col. Trimble; Elizabeth to Col. Wilson; Mary to John Lewis; Jane to Col. Donally, of Fort Donally memory, in Greenbriar county, Va. Her brothers were John and William, who had a long captivity among the Indians, and Col. Robert McCreery. Her mother Mr. Kenney's great-grandmother, was Nancy Crawford, of Dublin, Ireland. On the father's side, Mr. Kenny's grandmother was Rebecca Robinson, and his grandfather Houston, was forty years in the service of his country as a spy among the Indians. The Indian army tht attacked Fort Donally passed within two lengths of his gun of him, and it was his timely report of their coming that saved the Fort. Mr. Kenney's grandfather's sister was the grandmother of Joseph Story, of Massachusetts, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Kenney was a pupil of the Rev. John Lyle ... of Kentucky .... Among his schoolmates were General Leslie Combs, Hon. Chilton Allen .... He became a teacher himself, and afterwards a farmer .... was elected Magistrate in Clark county .... joined Hopewell Presbyterian Church ... July, 1835. On the 12th of June, 1849, he was elected a ruling elder .... was buried in his family burial ground near his residence, November 25th, 1869, after ... services, conducted by his minister, Rev. Richard Valentine. [SS 4 January 1870]

On the 7th inst., near Fishersville ... Mrs. M. C. KOINER, wife of Cyrus Koiner, Esq., in the 40th year of her age. [SS 28 June 1870] ... member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church .... [leaves] husband, children. [SV 24 June 1870]

On Wednesday last, Gen. Edwin G. LEE, son-in-law of Rev. Gen. Pendleton fell dead at the Yellow Sulphur Springs, in Virginia .... a young man .... a lawyer .... At the beginning of the late war he was aid decamp to General T. J. Jackson, but was soon appointed major and assigned to the Thirty-third Virginia Infantry, Stonewall Brigade, and upon the re-organization of that regiment in 1862 he was elected lieutenant colonel, and soon became colonel by the death of that officer .... his health failing he was assigned to post duty in Staunton, and in 1864 was promoted to brigadier general. [SV 2 September 1870]

Died in Fishersville ... April 21, Mrs. Agnes W. LOGAN, wife of Robert C. Logan [SS 3 May 1870]

At her residence ... May 12th ... Mrs. Mary M. LUSHBAUGH, wife of Adams Lushbaugh, Esq., of this town, at age 67. [SS 17 May 1870]

Near Deerfield ... July 6th ... Bennie [MALONEY], infant son of Capt. Michael and Mary Maloney, aged 5 months and 24 days. [SV 22 July 1870]

On the 3rd inst., at the residence of his son, Augustus, near Churchville, John MASINCOP, at the advanced age of 94 years, 3 months and 3 days. [SV 22 April 1870]

On the 8th of December ... at his residence in Albemarle county ... in the 77th year of his age, Nathaniel MASSIE, for many years a resident of Augusta county. [SS 27 December 1870]

... 14th inst., Willie [MATHENY], infant son of Wm. M. and Cornelia Matheny—aged 4 months and 8 days. [SS 21 June 1870] ... Willie MATHENAY [SV 17 June 1870]

On the 26th ult., near Parnassus, in this county, Robert [MAYER], third son of Wm. and Mary A. St. MAYER, in the 17th year of his age. [SS 18 October 1870] ... Robert [MYER] [SV 14 October 1870] On the 25th ult. [VV 20 October 1870]

... Capt. James A. McCLUNG died on Friday morning last, in this place, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Jos. A. Waddell, Senator for this District. [SS 6 December 1870] ... well known throughout the State and country as a Hotel man .... was connected with the Virginia Hotel, in this place, for many years, as one of its Proprietors, and with the Exchange Hotel in Richmond as manager, and for several years ... had sole charge of the celebrated Hot Springs of Virginia. [SV 9 December 1870]

Died at the residence of John Shuey, at Arbor Hill ... April 22nd, A. M. McCLURE of Rockville, Indiana, aged 31 years. [SS 26 April 1870]

Near Stuart's Draft, April 28th ... Francis Marion McCOMB, in the 24th year of his age. [SS 3 May 1870] ... son of Joseph McComb, in the 23rd year of his age. [SV 6 May 1870]

Rev. John McCUE. See CRAIG.

On the 29th ult., at Parnassus ... Mrs. Susan McFALL, wife of Wm. McFall, in the 46th year of her age .... member of the Lutheran Church. [SV 7 October 1870]

Feb. 8th, at the residence of her father, Mrs. Virginia McGUFFIN, wife of M. A. McGuffin of Bath, and daughter of Mr. David Clemmer of Augusta. [SS 1 March 1870]

Died near Middlebrook ... March 18, Catharine McKEE, wife of Samuel McKee .... when young ... joined the United Brethren Church. Three years ago ... connected herself with the M. E. Church .... leaves a husband a two sons. [SS 5 April 1870]

Mr. John McNUT, aged 26, a Stonemason at Siberton, this county, on Sunday last ... died .... leaves a young wife .... Three weeks ago ... he had his life insured, for \$1000, in the St. Louis Mutual, of which our esteemed fellow townsmen Capt. H. H. Peck is Agent for Augusta county .... On Saturday last ... the first payment on it made. The next day Mr. McNut was a corpse, and

his wife will ... be paid the amount for which he was insured. Could a stronger argument be presented in favor of life insurance. [VW 8 September 1870]

At Oakland, near Greenville ... May 2nd, Elizabeth [MERRITT], wife of Mr. John Merritt, in the 78th year of her age. [SS 17 May 1870]

... 15th inst. ... at the residence of her husband, Mrs. E. W. MICHIE, wife of Thos. J. Michie, Esq., in the 71st year of her age. The funeral will take place from the Episcopal church. [SS 16 August 1870]

Died ... September 4th, on Christian's Creek ... Augustus F. T. MYERS, infant son of Samuel K. and Geraldine F. Myers—aged 4 months and 17 days. [SS 13 September 1870]

Died at Ferry Hill, MD. ... May 21st ... Miss Lucy V. MYERS, aged 28 years, 8 months, and 28 days .... [member of] St. John's Reformed Church in Augusta county. [SS 31 May 1870]

A colored man by the name of James NALON, was killed at Buffalo Gap one day last week by a tree ... falling on him. [VV 27 January 1870]

The train from the West Saturday morning contained the corpse of Mrs. A. T. NICKELL, who died ... at Millboro, Bath county, which was being taken by her husband to Waynesboro' to be buried by the side of her father, Dr. Henry. When the train had gotten within a few miles of Staunton, the afflicted husband ... shot himself .... [he] was a native and resident of Monroe County, W. Va. [SS 25 October 1870] .... her parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Henry [SV 28 October 1870] .... Mr. A. Thompson NICHOLS ... was on the train ... in company with Mr. Bell, of Waynesboro', his brother-in-law. [VV 27 October 1870]

On the 22nd ult., at the residence of his parents, near this place, Walter Mews OPIE, infant son of John N. and Isabella Opie [SS 1 March 1870] ... Isabel Opie [SV 28 February 1870]

On the 15th inst., at her residence, near Waynesboro', Mrs. PATTERSON, relict of the late Alexander Patterson. [SS 22 November 1870]

On the 2nd instant, on South River ... Mr. George PATTERSON. [SS 12 July 1870]

... 11th inst., at the residence of Judge John N. Hendren, in Staunton, Miss Annie PEYTON, daughter of the late Hon. John H. Peyton, aged about 43 years. [SS 17 May 1870] ... Miss Ann PEYTON, second daughter of John H. Peyton and Ann Montgomery Lewis, late of Staunton .... was one of a family of ten children ... and was the only one unmarried of eight sisters. [SV 20 May 1870]

... January 8th, Mrs. Nancy POAGE, wife of James Poage, in the 58th year of her age. [SS 25 January 1870]

We are very sorry to hear of the death of Chas. W. PRICE, of Winchester, brother of Capt. Geo. E. Price, and for several years a resident of Staunton. [SV 3 June 1870]

A little son of Dr. Alexandria killed, on Tuesday last at Waynesboro ...

a six year old boy by the name of Quinlin [ALEXANDRIA] of same town. [VV 31 March 1870]

Died on the 13th of Oct., Josie B. [RICHARDSON], wife of Chas. A. Richardson, in her 18th year. A few short months ago she was the blushing bride .... was left motherless at quite a tender age but was raised by her aunt Miss Henrietta Brooks .... [United] with the Presbyterian Church. [SS 15 November 1870] ... at the residence of her husband, in this place. [SV 14 October 1870]

Died in ... Sangersville, , on the 3rd inst. ... Martha E. RIVERCOMB, wife of Wm. C. Rivercomb, and daughter of Andrew Crist, Esq., aged 23 years, 3 months and 15 days. Funeral sermon by Rev. Isaac Soul of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. [SS 14 June 1870]

On the 1st instant, in Mt. Sidney, James E. [ROSS], son of W. O. and S. A. Ross, aged 8 months. [SS 12 July 1870]

Mrs. Mary ROW, Postmistress at Moffett's Creek, died at her residence on the 2nd inst., aged 70 years. [SS 8 March 1870]

On the 9th of May ... in Cottonwood, Tahama county, California, John A. RUFF, eldest son of Jacob Ruff, dec'd, of Augusta county, aged about 58 years. [SS 12 July 1870]

Died ... 18th instant, near Swoope's Depot ... at the residence of Mr. John Wilson ... Mr. Robert R. RUFF, son of Mr. Jacob Ruff, dec'd. [SS 22 November 1870] On the 8th inst. [SV 25 November 1870]

On the 28th ult., at his residence near Midway ... Peter H. RUSH, in the 79th year of his age. [SS 14 June 1870]

... on 16th instant, at Cline's Mill, James Emory [SHAVER], son of Andrew and Elizabeth E. Shaver, aged 5 years, 1 month and 18 days. [SS 22 February 1870]

Died in Spring Hill, March 11th, Henry T. [SHEETS], aged 2 years, 1 month and 7 days, son of Benjamin E. and Mary A. Sheets. [SS 19 April 1870]

Murder of an Augusta County Man.... Capt. Joseph SHUMATE, from the Mariposa, C lifornia, Free Press, of Oct. 7th .... Last Friday evening ... John R. Hite, Joseph SHUMATE ... were engaged in conversation in front of Schlageter's Hotel, when a man ... C. W. Smith, familiarly known as "Artesian Smith," .... stabbled [SHUMATE] .... Doctors Turner and Bedford were summoned .... lingered till Wednesday .... native of Virginia, and has been a resident of Hite's Cove a little over four years. [SV 28 October 1870]

... Sept. 1st, Carrie Emma [SMITH], youngest daughter of Jas. H. and Hettie A. Smith, of Staunton, aged 10 months and 14 days. [SV 9 September 1870]

... 13th inst., James Edward [SMITH], fourth son of James H. and Hettie A. Smith, of Staunton, aged 2 years and 6 months. [SV 19 August 1870]

.. 11th inst., Mrs. Elizabeth SNAPP—aged 67 years, 4 months and 18 days. [SS 13 December 1870]



.... 17th instant, in Staunton, George Harman [SNAPP]—infant son of Archibald K. and Sarah C. Snapp—aged 5 months and 9 days. [SS 26 July 1870]

Rev. P. E. STEVENSON, a ... Presbyterian minister, died at Paterson, N. J., last week. He was at one time pastor in Staunton ... and then in Williamsburg, N. Y. [SS 5 April 1870]

In Staunton ... November 27th, at the residence of Nicho. K. Trout, Esq., Miss Harriet M. STRIBLING, in the 50th year of her age. [SS 29 November 1870]

... June 2nd, at the residence of her husband, Dr. P. Strouse, near Middlebrook ... Mrs. Catharine STROUSE in the 73rd year of her age. [SS 14 June 1870]

Andrew A. STUART ... died on the 3rd inst., at his residence on Kerr's Creek, Rockbridge county, where he had but recently located and engaged in business .... was born in 1810 in Augusta county .... a member of the church of his fathers—the Presbyterian. [SS 14 June 1870]

On the 15th inst., at the Va. Hotel, in this place, Mr. G. B. TAPSCOTT, in the 48th year of his age .... a native of Buckingham Co. ... but more recently a citizen of Richmond .... [leaves] sisters. [SV 21 January 1870] .... The deceased arrived in Staunton and took lodging at the Hotel on the 8th of December .... [attended by] Dr. C. R. Harris and Capt. Sale, the Hotel Proprietor .... and ... Rev. Kramer of our Methodist Church. [VV 20 January 1870]

Died at his residence in this city ... Oct. 29th, Edwin M. TAYLOR, Esq., in the 57th year of his age. [SS 1 November 1870] [Tribute of Respect by] ... Staunton Lodge No. 45, I. O. O. F. .... James F. Patterson, Newton Argenbright, Committee. [SS 8 November 1870] .... He occupied ... a prominent position in one of our Banks. [SV 4 November 1870]

At his residence in this county, on the 26th of May, Mr. Simpson F. TAYLOR, aged 68 years, 2 months and 24 days. [SS 14 June 1870]

... Beverly THOMAS, of Russel county, a deaf mute at the D. D. & B. Institution of this place, [died] ... on last Friday morning .... was about seventeen years of age. [SS 31 May 1870]

On the 3rd inst., at the residence of her husband in Spring Hill, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ THOMPSON, wife of William Thompson, Esq. [SV 9 December 1870]

In Richmond, on Tuesday night last, at the residence of Capt. John M. Allen, Mr. James TIPPING of this place. [SS 14 June 1870]

On Jan. 21st, Mrs. Saphrona Ann [TRAINUM], wife of David C. Trainum—aged about 54 years .... member of the Methodist church. [SS 8 February 1870] ... Saphronia [VV 10 February 1870]

Died, near Greenville, Nelson county, Va., Mrs. Margaret TREVY, aged 59 years .... wife of Robt. Trevy, dec'd, and daughter of the Hon. Mathew Shaw, of Rockbridge county, Va. .... was born in Rockbridge county .... joined the Methodist Episcopal Church .... [leaves] children ....

brothers .... Her remains were attended to .... Sherando Churchyard, by the side of her husband and father, she takes her last sleep. [SV 4 March 1870]

Funeral of Ex-Governor Allen TRIMBLE ... Hillsboro, O., Feb. 5, 1870  
.... Allen TRIMBLE was born in Augusta County ... November 24th, 1783. His ancestors were of the hardy, adventurous Scotch-Irish stock, of the John Knox school .... In one of numerous attacks made (by Indians) on this border population of Augusta County, John Trimble, grandfather of Allen, was slain .... James, his only son, the father of Allen, than a lad of ten years, taken prisoner. [The scene of his capture was a farm on Jennings Branch, above Churchville, lately owned by Bishop Glossberger .... John A. Trimble, the youngest son, now of Hillsboro, Ohio, and Mrs. Margaret C. McCue, are the only survivors of this large family. Col. George Moffett, a half brother of James Trimble, who resided where Baily Dunlap now lives, raised a company and pursued and overtook the Indians in Tygart's Valley ... recovered the prisoners, among them his sister Mrs. Estill, the mother of the late Capt. Jno. M. Estill of this county, and Judge Benj. Estill, of Abingdon .... James Allen, a native of Ireland, the father of Jane, the mother of Gov. Trimble, lived on Middle river, near S. Cline's mill, and raised a large family on what has been known for some years past as the Sheffey place.] .... James Trimble commanded a company of these border troops during the [Revolutionary] war. At its close he married Jane, daughter of James Allen, whose brothers had perished on battle-field, one in Grant's defeat, near Fort Duquesne, and the other at Point Pleasant, under Lewis. In 1784 Captain Trimble, having previously located in Kentucky the land warrant received for military service, resolved to make that Territory his future home, and accordingly organized an emigrant company ... and reached Crab Orchard, Kentucky, November, 1784. Allen Trimble ... was eleven months old, and was carried in his mother's arms, on horseback. Captain Trimble settled a few miles from McConnell's Station—now Lexington, Kentucky—where he continued to reside until his death in 1804. He had, in 1802 ... resolved to ... make his home in the Territory northwest of the Ohio .... [where] he visited ... accompanied by his son Allen, and selected lands in the Scioto and Paint valleys, and on Clear Creek in Highland county .... Captain Trimble ... died ... leaving Allen, his oldest son ... head of the family .... he took possession of the residence in Ohio .... The removal took place in October, 1805. William, the next oldest brother, was left at a classical school in Kentucky .... Two of the younger brothers were sent to Philadelphia, and one to Newport, Kentucky, to complete their education. Two of the brothers, William [a lawyer] and Carey [a merchant] .... joined Hull's army, at Dayton, as volunteer privates—[War of 1812] William was elected Major of McArthur's regiment, and Cary Lieutenant of a company .... promoted ... one to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel commanding regiment, the other to a Captaincy .... Colonel Trimble .... In 1817 ... resigned his commission in the army, and was elected to the United States Senate by the Legislature of Ohio. In 1809 Allen Trimble was appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and Supreme Court, for Highland

county, and County Recorder .... He responded to his country's call, for brief periods of military duty, both in 1812 and 1813 .... was elected Colonel of one of the regiments raised in Southern Ohio .... In 1816 ... was elected Representative ... and took his seat in the first General Assembly that was ever convened in ... Columbus. In 1817 he was elected to the senate of Ohio .... 1818-1819 he was chosen President of the Senate .... 1821-2 Governor Brown was elected United States Senator ... to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Col. Wm. A. Trimble. The President of the Senate ... became the acting Governor .... 1826 ... was elected Governor .... 1830, Gov. Trimble retired from public life .... 1821-22, he buried three brothers within twelve months .... he was awakened under the first sermon he heard from ... his son, Joseph M. Trimble .... [converted at] a revival in ... the Methodist Episcopal Church .... youngest son, Carey .... daughter Eliza .... February 3, he fell asleep in Jesus .... remains to the new cemetery. [SS 8 March 1870]

Died on October 23rd ... in Greenville, Mrs. Margaret VINES. [SS 8 November 1870] ... at the residence of her husband, M. D. Vines ... in the 60th year of her age. [SV 28 October 1870]

WADDELL. See CRAIG.

At Newport ... 27th of Nov., Mr. John B. WAID ... in the 27th year of his age. [SS 6 December 1870]

On Feb. 20th, at his residence near Churchville, Benajah WALTERS, in the 66th year of his age. [SS 1 March 1870] ... Benajah WAITERS [VV 3 March 1870]

On the 10th instant, At Elizabeth Furnace, Marshall WARD departed this life in the 22nd year of his age. [22 March 1870]

In Charlottesville, on the 22nd ult., Mrs. Mary A. WATTS, in the 69th year of her age .... was born in Staunton, July 20th 1801. [SV 10 June 1870]

On the 15th inst., at Warrenton, Fauquier, Miss Neelie WEED, daughter of B. F. Weed, dec'd., formerly of Augusta, and adopted daughter of Rev. Wm. T. Richardson, late of Waynesboro', aged about 20 years. [SV 18 November 1870]

Died near Spring Hill, on the 2nd of February, Turner Ashby WHEELER, son of James D. Wheeler, aged 3 years, 2 months and 18 days. [SS 15 February 1870]

When Gen. Hunter's forces were here in June 1864, they commenced to destroy the arched Railroad bridge in Staunton between the Va. Hotel and the Lunatic Asylum, but ... after throwing off the Southern parapet, they desisted from further destruction. This parapet has not ... been restored, and on ... the 24th ult., Mr. Geo. WHITE, aged 67 years, fell from the bridge .... He was found by Mr. Erman, an employee of the Lunatic Asylum .... was ... taken to Mr. Geo. Harlan's and afterwards to Mr. Jno. B. Scherer's, Jr., where he died .... He alleged that he had been pushed off the bridge by Daniel Mahoney .... [who] was arrested ... and ... was tried before Justice R. G. Bickle, and acquitted—for the defense, Baldwin & Cochran and David S. Young, and for the Commonwealth Jas. Bumgardner, Jr. [SS 1 February

1870] .... Mahanny, a hibernian and resident of Staunton. [VV 27 January 1870]

On the 29th ult., near Mt. Sidney, Miss Melvina WHITLOCK [SS 12 July 1870]

... on the 12th instant, on Long Glade, Alice Jefferson [WHITMER], little daughter of Daniel A. and Lizzie J. Whitmer, aged 1 year, 11 months and 14 days. [SS 22 February 1870]

Near Arbor Hill, on the 22nd of August ... Dorcas Luella [WHITZEL], infant child of J. W. and S. J. Whitzel. [SS 30 August 1870] ... Dorcas Luella [WHITSEL] [SV 2 September 1870]

James C. WILSON. See CRAIG.

On Sunday last, at his residence near Swoope's depot, Mr. John WILSON—about 50 years old. [SS 29 November 1870]

At Aspen Hill, Augusta county, on September 22nd, Mrs. Lelia Hendren WILSON, wife of D. N. Wilson and daughter of W. M. Dudley, in the 25th year of her age. [SV 4 November 1870]

... a Miss WITZ, of Harrisonburg, who was on a visit to some friends at or near Spring Hill, was thrown from a horse on last Sunday ... and died. [SS 6 December 1870] ... 4th inst., Miss Alice Octavia WITTS, eldest daughter of Mr. John H. Witts, (batter) ... eighteen years .... She had been on a visit at Mr. Britt's ... and set off to Pisgah Church on horseback, in company with Mr. Britt's little daughter, some ten years old. [SS 13 December 1870] ... niece of Mr. Geo. W. Britt, of this county. [SV 9 December 1870] .... Her parents reside at Harrisonburg where she will be interred. [VV 8 December 1870]

Died in New Hope, Sept. 4th ... Mr. Wm. YARBROUGH, aged 81 years and 6 months and 18 days. [SS 20 December 1870]

On the 1st inst., David ZINK, Esq., in the 75th year of his age. [SS 21 June 1870]

Key:

SS - Staunton Spectator

SV - Staunton Vindicator

VV - Valley Virginian

This place - Staunton

This county - Augusta County

Inst., instant - same month

Ult., ultimo - preceding month

# LOCAL TELEPHONE HISTORY

By

Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell uttered the now famous words, "Mr. Watson come here, I need you" and carrying messages by voice over wire became a historical fact.

Two years later, in 1878, in Staunton a telephone line was installed from the store of Isaace Witz on East Beverley Street and the mill of Witz and Holt, located where Commerce Avenue crosses over Lewis Creek, according to J. W. Crews who was an executive assistant of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company in 1929. He had been a telegraph operator here in 1878 with Western Union Telegraph Company.

The second line here was once constructed by Charles S. Hunter, vice-president and cashier of the National Valley Bank (United Virginia Bank now) from the pulpit of First Presbyterian Church to the home of Miss Cornelia Wright, an invalid, who was unable to attend services. He had made the phones himself, from tin cans, wood and wire, battery operated with a ground throw switch to disconnect it during thunder storms.

In 1893, Mr. Hunter constructed the first line in the county from Fishersville to Long Meadows, connecting the residence of James R. Kemper, John B. Miller, G. W. C. Karnes, and A. H. McCue. In 1894, he built the first line from Staunton to Monterey, a distance of about 48 miles. The switchboard for this line was located in the drug store of William Allen, at 20 East Beverley Street (Grandma's Bait, 1987).

The first "long distance" line connecting the Staunton Switchboard with another community board was one operated by the Middlebrook Telephone Company which was incorporated on February 11, 1895 by John H. Bowman, J. Frank Clemmer, B. S. Condon, W. W. Sproul, H. A. Shepherd, W. C. Bosserman, William A. McComb, and H. M. Clemmer. Under its charter, the company was allowed to construct a telephone line from Staunton to Langdon with branch lines to Middlebrook, to Summerdean, Greenville and such other points as might need service. The principal office of the company was in Middlebrook.

On August 9, 1895, representatives of the Middlebrook and Summerdean, Hermitage and Waynesboro, Staunton and Monterey, Fishersville and Waynesboro, Harrisonburg and Woodstock, New Hope and Crimora, and Swoope Depot Exchanges met in Staunton and organized the City and County Mutual Telephone Exchange with J. W. Paul as president, N. C. Watts, general manager and W. W. Sproul, secretary.

The first subscribers to the new exchange were William Patrick, Hoge and Hutchinson, J. W. Wise, Baker and Brown, C & O Depot, B & O Depot, Daily News, Bickle and Hamrick, The Daily News, and one other.

By July of 1896 the switchboard had been changed to larger sizes four different times to accommodate the 520 telephones being served in Staunton and nearby county areas. The first three operators were the Misses Carrie Wren, Georgia Pace and Lelia Johnson. A line was under construction to Mint Spring, Greenville, Spottswood, and Lexington, as well as one to Weyers Cave.

The Staunton Mutual Telephone Company incorporated on April 17, 1897 with William Patrick, president, Newton C. Watts, treasurer-general manager, J. K. Brown, manager, C. E. Taylor, secretary and collector, and John A. Sproul, T. S. Burwell and J. T. Carr as additional directors. They were enabled by their charter to operate an exchange in Staunton and lines in Augusta County as well as lines to other towns, cities, and counties in Virginia. They could manufacture, install, and operate boards, switches, or any part of an exchange anywhere in Virginia.

On the same date the Waynesboro Mutual Telephone Company, Lexington Mutual Telephone Company, Buena Vista Mutual Telephone Company, Clifton Forge Mutual Telephone Company, Covington Mutual Telephone Company, were separately incorporated, with the same officers for all the companies.

The Weyers Cave Telephone Company was started by N. I. Kagey with a switchboard located in his store. Charles T. Sherman operated a switchboard and some lines in Burketown. There was a rivalry between these two competing companies. In 1906, Walter C. Switzer, the owner of the Harrisonburg Telephone Company, bought it and moved the switchboard to a former school building on New Street in Weyers Cave where it remained until the advent of automatic equipment in later years.

These companies had interconnecting lines plus ones to Harrisonburg, Burketown, Raphine, Ronceverte and Elkins. They also connected with the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, American Bell Telephone Company, and Virginia and Tennessee Telephone Company. The local office on Court House Square employed 16 female operators and 8 crewmen to maintain and service the 655 telephones and 125 miles of line.

It quickly became evident that the telephone was here to stay and had become an integral part of the social and business life of the country. In 1900 a group of local city and county business men organized the Long Distance Telephone Company of Virginia to construct, operate and maintain lines of telephones and telegraphs throughout Virginia, other states and territories. J. R. Kemper was president, W. H. Laughlin, secretary-treasurer, with F. M. Hanger, N. C. Watts, Andrew Bowling, Edward Echols and others as directors. This company was later sold to Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, a predecessor of Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

The Staunton Mutual Telephone Company was merged into the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia on February 29, 1916, which has served this area since that date.

By 1929, it was serving 2360 telephones, with a daily average of 14,000 local calls and 300 toll (long distance) calls. In addition, the central office served the following nearby local companies: Augusta County Mutual Telephone Company with 352 phones; New Hope Telephone Company, 152; Piedmont Telephone Company, Charlottesville, 4319; Spottswood Telephone Company, 280; Waynesboro Mutual Telephone Company, 615; Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company, Brownsburg, 193; C. F. Hackett Telephone Company, Greenwood, 60; Harrisonburg Mutual Telephone Company, 4600; and Lexington Telephone Company, 1680.

To show the growth of telephone usage, in September 1985, C & P Telephone Company was operating 4 central offices in Augusta County.

<u>Average Calls Per Day</u>			
<u>Office</u>	<u>Lines</u>	<u>Originating</u>	<u>Long Distance</u>
Fillmore Street	15,723	145,088	67,061
Stuarts Draft	3,078	58,318	18,050
Verona	2,626	23,376	4,675
Churchville	910	(included with Stuarts Draft)	
Totals	22,337	226,782	89,786

The Fillmore Street office opened in 1949 with the advent of local dialing with electronic switching starting in 1983 which gave direct long distance dialing. The Stuarts Draft office started operating in 1964 and added electronic switching in 1985. The Verona office began operation in 1978. Churchville became active in 1985.

Of all the telephone companies that operated in Augusta County, the Deerfield Telephone Company was a johnnie-come-lately on the scene. The US Forestry Service operated a 17 party line through the Deerfield Valley to connect ranger stations and included a telephone at Elliotts Knob Lookout Tower. There was a switchboard operated by Mrs. Ernest Kelly in Deerfield.

In 1954, the Forestry Service put the line up for sale at auction. Thirty residents each invested \$350.00 and formed the Deerfield Telephone Company which began operation on February 1, 1955 with a used automatic switchboard that had been bought in Hillsville. It continued to operate with volunteer and part-time help until it was sold to the Mountain Grove-Williamsville Telephone Company in 1982 which now provides service with all private lines.

The New Hope Telephone Company was started early in the century and continues to operate as an independent company with direct dialing. There were various small companies, sometimes only a single line feeding into another company's switchboard. These lines used a single wire, with the ground being the ground and featured individual rings for each telephone. The one that I remember from Grandmother's camp was 20-F-12, the ring being a long and 2 short rings.

Another of the small companies, which later merged, was the Augusta County Farmers Mutual Company. In 1917, R. G. Coiner was president and W. M. Ham secretary. By 1931 C. W. Parker had become president.

References: Daily News, July 1896

Valley Virginian April 12, 1929

Typed paper: The History of Clifton Forge Waynesboro Telep. Co.

Letter of C. Kelsie Hughes, C&P Mgr, dated 10/30/1985

Dispatch & News, January 1906

Newspaper Clipping, Roanoke Times, Nov. 9, 1969; letters and papers provided by J. H. Ramsey



Plecker-Wise House, Centerville, Virginia

## THE PLECKER-WISE HOUSE, AUGUSTA COUNTY

By

Ann McCleary

The Plecker-Wise House contains some of the best-preserved and most spectacular examples of the bright polychromy—in graining, marbling, and spongework—that once characterized many of the houses of the early German settlers in the Valley of Virginia. The Plecker-Wise House is one of only three examples in Augusta or Rockingham Counties having such an extensive amount of painting, but evidence of similar painting—now covered over—has been found in several other farmhouses in these two counties. This lively, colorful interior decoration is typically hidden in standard brick I-houses of the 1810s through 1830s, revealing the persistence of the Germans' decorative spirit despite their acceptance of new housing forms. The quality and quantity of decoration in the Plecker-Wise House, particularly the spongework and such traditional German folk-art motifs as the birds on the passage wainscoting, make it an exceptionally interesting display of the painter's art.

In the late 18th century, a group of German Reformed and Lutheran settlers moved to the North River Basin in southern Rockingham and northern Augusta counties, segregating themselves in small German-speaking

settlements. Adam Weisz (Wise), one of the leaders of this group, settled in what became known as Wise Hollow around 1780. The Weisz family had come from the Rhineland-Palatinate region to America, arrived in Philadelphia around 1784, and later moved to Augusta County, Virginia. Adam Wise was listed as the head of a family in Rockingham County. He built a large stone *Flurkuchenhaus* on his farm in the late 18th century. During the next several decades he continued to acquire substantial landholdings by patent and deed in Augusta and Rockingham counties.

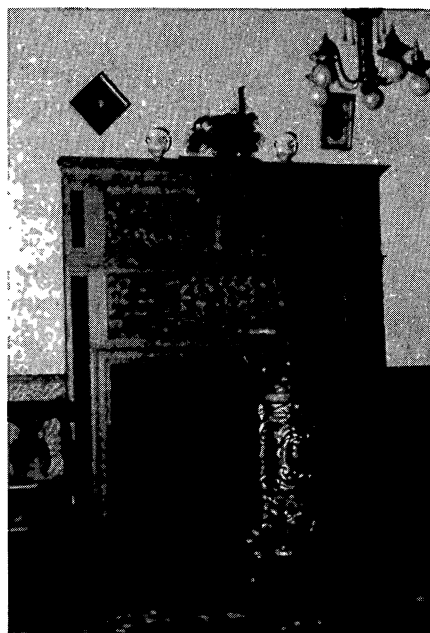
In 1815 Adam Wise sold an Augusta County tract of 116 acres along Naked Creek, adjoining his Wise Hollow residence, to his son-in-law Jacob Blaecher (Plecker). Over the next three years the Pleckers built the present house. During the following four decades, Jacob Plecker developed a large and successful plantation. At his death, Plecker had over \$2000 in personal property and \$3000 in notes due. The property passed to his son-in-law John D. Wise in 1869. The house has remained in the Wise family to the present day.

The Plecker house is a two-story, five-bay brick I-house tucked into a cove in Wise Hollow. The penciled brickwork is laid in Flemish bond on the facade and in three- to four- course American bond on the sides and rear. The transomlighted front and rear entrances and original windows are highlighted by brick jack arches, and the entire composition was finished with a molded brick cornice (removed ca. 1925). In the 1920s, the Wise family employed a carpenter from Newport News, Virginia, to lower the roof pitch, to build the shingled cross-gable, and to add jigsawn trim on the front and side gables.

While the first floor contains the standard two-room and central-passage plan, the second floor suggests a more traditional German three-room manner of organizing space, with the south room being divided into two smaller chambers. The ell, in the traditional Valley manner, contains two rooms on each floor, divided by a central chimney.

The survival of the original Federal woodwork throughout the house, together with its bright painting, make the Plecker-Wise House a particularly fascinating artifact of early Valley culture. In contrast to the heavy, robustly carved mantels at the nearby Seawright House, the Plecker-Wise house displays relatively flat, simple Federal mantels. However, its double frieze is a characteristic feature of many Valley mantels from the 1810s through 1830s.

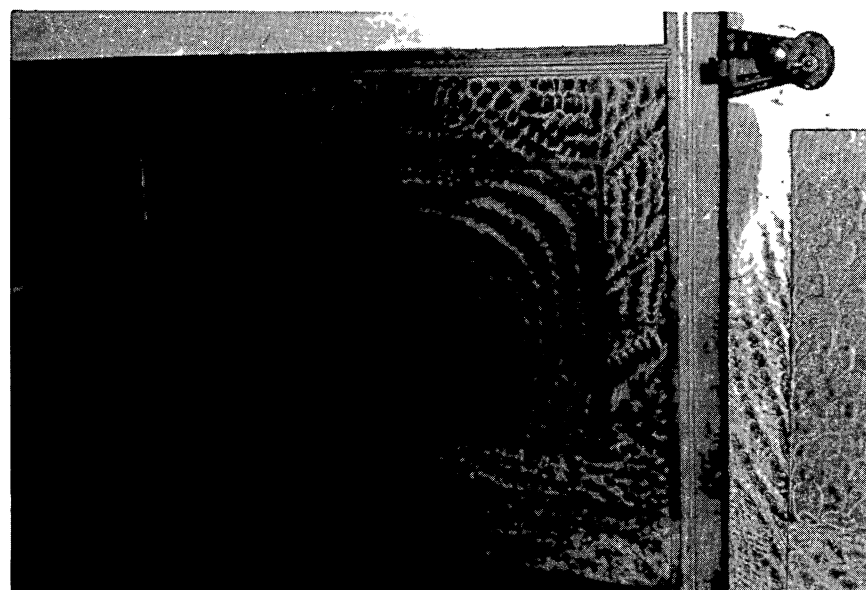
The most elaborate room is the parlor, to the south of the central passage, where all the woodwork is painted in brightly colored marbling and spongework designs. The delicate mantel has an unusually tall double frieze in the local tradition. The frieze is divided into three plain panels, with short shallow-fluted pilasters framing the top two panels and longer pilasters enclosing the lower frieze and fireplace opening. Each set of pilasters supports a narrow molding band with alternating patterns of stylized flower designs and clusters of eleven flutes. Through the application of bright



Parlor mantel, Plecker-Wise House



Parlor door, Plecker-Wise House



Parlor wainscoting, Plecker-Wise House



Hall door, first floor, Plecker-Wise House

paint, a simple design has become quite vibrant. The pilasters are picked out in a blue-green marbled pattern, and the relief panels are painted brown over yellow in what the family calls an "oyster" pattern. The background color of this mantel is rose. The paneled wainscoting and the inside of the six-paneled door echo this bright sponged painting. The panels of the door and wainscoting are adorned with blue sponged scales in a variety of designs and are framed by brown and yellow spongework on the rails and stiles. The contrasting baseboard displays black on rose marbling. The Federal chair railing and door and window frames pick up the rose tones of the mantel.

The central passage displays a slightly different, but equally vivid, color scheme. Here the most unusual features are different animal designs painted in each panel of the recessed-panel wainscoting. The animals and abstract forms are painted in blue on a gray background and the rails and stiles in green marbled designs. The chair railing, door frames, and door repeat the green tones, contrasting with the blue baseboards and the grained red-on-yellow, tiger-maple-patterned basement door. The open-string, double-flight stair has a rose-colored molded rail, but the remaining details—paired colonette balusters, heavy turned newel, scrolled and pierced brackets, and carved pendant drops at the landing—all echo the prevailing green tones.

The north room, used traditionally as a bedroom, has woodwork similar to the parlor. The paneled wainscoting contains the same painted spongework: blue on the panels and brown-on-yellow on the rails and stiles.



The mantel follows a form identical to the parlor mantel, but here it is more simply painted; the brown-on-yellow spongework is highlighted by blue-green marbled pilasters, and with light-yellow quadrant outlines on each panel.

Three of the four second-floor rooms also retain their early paint colors, but these are not as elaborately painted. The whitewashed walls of the passage are finished with green pedestal chair rails and white-on-black speckled baseboards. The risers to the first few open steps of the enclosed double-run attic stair are marbled in the same green tones as in the lower passage. The largest bedroom—to the north—is decorated by a rose-color pedestal chair rail and plain Federal-style mantel with one large recessed panel and a shallow architrave molding and shelf. The opposite front room retains the mustard-yellow, trim, highlighted by brown baseboards and a maroon door. The room to the rear has been repainted, but the trim was originally black with yellow spots, and the door was maroon.

The family recalls that originally a detached kitchen was connected to the house with a covered breezeway. The present two-room ell, added to the house around 1893-95, was reportedly part of a tenant house on the farm built ca. 1885-86. The ell rooms have not been altered since their construction, and all the trim survives in its dark natural wood tones. An enclosed single-flight stair ascends along one side of the chimney.

The farmstead still operates with a broad assortment of farm buildings dating from the mid-19th century to the present. Two buildings, a granary and corncrib, were constructed of logs in the 19th century, but only the V-notched crib remains. The ca. 1885 bank barn and the early 20th-century terracotta springhouse, with its characteristic overhang, reveal the persistence of local building traditions into the late 19th and 20th centuries. Other outbuildings include a frame washhouse, smokehouse, chicken house, hog house, and machine shed. The present residents recall an outdoor bake oven and a slave house that were razed. Jacob Plecker's 1885 will indicates he owned at least two slaves.

## Index to Augusta County Historical Bulletin

Vol. 22 (1986) — Vol. 26 (1990)

### —A—

- ANANIAS DAVISSON AND SHENANDOAH VALLEY SINGING SCHOOL  
By Richard K. McMaster Vol. 25—No. 2  
AUGUSTA BAR PROFILES  
By Fitzhugh Elder Vol. 26—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY CELEBRATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY  
By Richard Miller Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY COURTHOUSES AND ADDENDA  
By Brenda Morris Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, HISTORIC MAP PRESENTED TO Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY THE NEW FLAG Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1862  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 22—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1863  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 22—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1864  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 23—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1865  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 23—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1866  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 24—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1867  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 24—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1868  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1869  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 25—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY OBITUARIES 1870  
By Anne Covington Kidd Vol. 26—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY A PREFACE TO AUGUSTA COUNTY'S 250th  
ANNIVERSARY: TEXT OF ESTABLISHING ACT Vol. 24—No. 2  
AUGUSTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1870 - 1940 PART III  
By Ann McCleary Vol. 22—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, THE SEAL OF Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA COUNTY THEN AND NOW 1738 - 1988  
By Justice George M. Cochran Vol. 25—No. 1  
AUGUSTA DECLARATION OF 1775 PRESENTATION TO AUGUSTA  
COUNTY'S COURTHOUSE, FEB. 17, 1986 Vol. 22—No. 1

### —B—

- BROWN, JAMES JAMES BROWN'S LEDGER 1826 - 1852 Vol. 23—No. 1

### —C—

- CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS FROM AUGUSTA COUNTY - STAUNTON,  
FUNERAL EXPENSE ROLL OF  
By Ben Ritter Vol. 24—No. 1

### —D—

- DODGE, DR. WILLIAM BALDWIN  
By Robin Marshall Vol. 23—No. 2

### —F—

- 1st VIRGINIA CAVALRY, COMPANY E, VALLEY RANGERS  
By James W. Brady Vol. 25—No. 2

—G—

- GARBER, THOMAS WHO WAS THOMAS GARBER THAT WE SHOULD  
WEEP FOR HIM? PART I  
By J. Suzanne Simmons Vol. 26—No. 1
- GARBER, THOMAS WHO WAS THOMAS GARBER THAT WE SHOULD  
WEEP FOR HIM? PART II  
By J. Suzanne Simmons Vol. 26—No. 2

—H—

- THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN STAUNTON AND  
AUGUSTA COUNTY  
By Kenneth W. Keller Vol. 23—No. 1
- HITE, SAMUEL P., CO. D, 5 REG TO HENRY C. HITE  
20 JULY, 1862 Vol. 23—No. 2
- HUSTON, REV. SAMUEL, REMINISCENSES OF Vol. 23—No. 1

—J—

- JACKSON, STONEWALL, FROM BUFFALO GAP TO THE BATTLE  
OF McDOWELL WITH  
By Patra Hull Vol. 24—No. 2

—L—

- LOCAL TELEPHONE HISTORY  
By Richard M. Hamrick, Jr. Vol. 26—No. 2
- LOG CABIN ON BULL CREEK  
By Donna R. Huffer Vol. 24—No. 1

—M—

- McCUTCHAN, WILLIAM WILLIAM McCUTCHAN'S FAMILY  
RECORD Vol. 25—No. 2
- METHODIST BEGINNINGS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY  
By Richard K. McMaster Vol. 24—No. 2
- MOUNT TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
By Frank C. Hanger Vol. 25—No. 2
- MUSEUM OF AMERICAN FRONTIER CULTURE PROGRESS  
REPORT Vol. 22—No. 1

—O—

- OLD PICTURES OF STAUNTON AND AUGUSTA COUNTY  
By Richard M. Hamrick, Jr. Vol. 22—No. 2
- OLD STONE, WHAT'S NEW AT  
By Andy McCaskey Vol. 26—No. 2

—P—

- THE PLECKER-WISE HOUSE, OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY  
By Ann McCleary Vol. 26—No. 2
- "PREACH A LITTLE, PAINT A LITTLE, DRINK A LITTLE"  
By Ann McCleary Vol. 22—No. 2
- PRESBYTERIAN FIGHTS, FITS, AND STARTS  
By James H. Smylie Vol. 26—No. 1
- PRESBYTERIAN OUR PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY:  
A HERITAGE OF DEVOTION  
By Joseph B. Yount, III Vol. 24—No. 2

—R—

- ROAD ORDERS IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY FROM ORANGE  
COUNTY RECORDS—1737 - 1745, ABSTRACTS OF  
By Ann Brush Miller Vol. 22—No. 1

—S—

- SHEMARIAH ACADEMY, CLOSING EXERCISES AT, 1866 Vol. 22—No. 1
- STONEWALL BRIGADE, COMPANY F, FIFTH REGIMENT  
By Thomas M. Smiley Vol. 23—No. 2

—T—

- TRACKING THE GERMANS TO THE SUGAR LOAF  
By Peggy Shomo Joyner Vol. 25—No. 2
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—V—

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—W—

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